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Advertiser·News

Volume XXI Number 15

"Your Hometown Newspaper"

April 16, 1998

Council To Consider Mayor's Proposal To Negotiate...

Tax Deal With Power Plant Returns

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Next week, Town Council will decide whether the town will open negotiations with Berkshire Power on a payment in-lieu-of-tax agreement (PILOT) for their \$185 million electric generating plant to be built on Moylan Lane.

Last month, Mayor Christopher C. Johnson received a letter from Berkshire Power Project Manager Kenneth Roberts expressing the power company's interest in negotiating a PILOT agreement with the town. However, Johnson won't begin the negotiation process unless Town Council agrees that it is in the town's best interest to explore the possibility of reaching a PILOT agreement with Berkshire Power.

Two years ago, Town Council refused to consider the PILOT agreement of \$1.1 million, escalating at three percent annually, that had been worked out between the Mayor and the power developers. Several councilors felt the deal did not offer the town enough money, and the ma-

jority of the council felt it would not be appropriate to even discuss the agreement until the ongoing court battle between the power developers and plant opponents was settled.

Although he believes a PILOT agreement would give the town the certainty of a steadily increasing revenue stream without a costly battle each year over the valuation of the plant, Johnson said he won't waste his time or the town's money in negotiating a tax treaty if the council is not interested.

Under state law, the Mayor has the sole authority to negotiate a tax treaty on behalf of the town, but the plan would have to be approved by Town Council and then ratified by the State Legislature.

Roberts said his company believes a PILOT agreement will benefit both Berkshire Power and the town.

"It will allow us to predict into the future one of the largest expenses of the plant, which will per-

mit longer-term power supply contracts," Roberts said. "It will also allow the town to know with certainty the financial contribution our facility will make to Agawam. It will provide for an escalating payment rather than a descending payment, and it avoids potential disputes regarding the method and calculation of the full and fair value of the facility."

Power Development Corporation President Michael Armitage said the original PILOT agreement worked out between Berkshire Power and the Mayor will serve as the starting point, if the council agrees to open the negotiations.

"We're not looking to take anything off the table," Armitage said. "We'll be looking to the town to add new ideas and discuss new numbers."

SEE BERKSHIRE POWER - Page 2...

Cellucci Fundraiser In Town...



MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR PAUL CELLUCCI (center) with Agawam Mayor Christopher C. Johnson (left) and Chicopee Mayor Richard Kos (right) at the Cellucci campaign fundraiser held at The Oaks on Wednesday, April 8th. (See additional photos on Page 10.) Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Neal Pays Visit To Agawam...



U.S. REP. RICHARD NEAL (center) speaks with Agawam residents Irene and Mario Asta-Ferrero at the Agawam Senior Center on Wednesday, April 8th. The Senior Center was just one of the Congressman's stops in Agawam last week. (See additional photos and story on Pages 6 through 8.) Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

BERKSHIRE POWER - from Page 1...**No Speculation On A Specific Dollar Amount...**

Neither Armitage nor the Mayor would speculate on a specific dollar amount that might be acceptable to both sides. Armitage said the rules for valuing power plants have changed under deregulation of the electric industry, but no one, including the Department of Revenue, knows how to value power plants at fair market value.

Armitage assumes the plant would start out paying real and property taxes of \$1.8 to \$2 million a year on a depreciating scale. Under a PILOT agreement, the power company would start out paying a lower figure that would increase over the life of the agreement.

Armitage said his company would benefit from a PILOT agreement by being able to produce and sell electricity at the lowest possible cost, and the town would benefit by having one of the largest taxpayers contributing to a growing tax base rather than a decreasing tax base.

"We want to sell electricity to everyone in Agawam and in Western Massachusetts for the lowest possible price," Armitage said. "It makes sense if we have a lower tax payment increasing every year, then the price of power would gradually increase over time."

At its Tuesday, April 21st meeting, Town Council is expected to consider the Mayor's resolution asking them to approve the opening of negotia-

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tions on a PILOT agreement, as well as appointing one councilor to serve as the council's representative at the bargaining table.

"If the answer is 'no,' I won't go through the process," Johnson said.

According to the Mayor, every version of the legislation restructuring the electric industry encouraged communities to enter into PILOT agreements as the best way to deal with taxing power plants (in order to avoid annual disputes over the full and fair market value of power plants).

If the council prefers to tax Berkshire Power on its real and personal property, the town will be forced to hire valuation experts each year and will likely be involved in a constant, expensive battle each year over the valuation of the plant, Johnson said.

Johnson said he was told by Holyoke's mayor that the city spends between \$50,000 and \$100,000 annually on experts to defend the city's tax assessment of the hydro-electric plant there.

If Berkshire Power were to file for an abatement with the Appellate Tax Board, the town would be forced to hold the amount in dispute in the overlay reserve account until the dispute was settled, and the town would be forced to pay interest if an abatement was granted, Johnson said.

"I'm hoping the council will make a financial, rather than a political decision on this," Johnson said.

April 16, 1998

A.R.E. To Hold General Meeting On Tuesday, April 21st

On Tuesday, April 21st, at 1:30 p.m., the A.R.E. (Agawam Retired Employees) will hold a general meeting in the Agawam Public Library's Community Room. The meeting will be open to all retired town employees and spouses.

The program for the afternoon will include two speakers, question-and-answer periods, and an opportunity for input from the members.

Lisa Jackson from Blue Cross/Blue Shield will speak on Blue Care 65. We will also hear from Dan Moraski from Social Security, who will speak on Social Security offsets. Both speakers will address your questions and concerns after their presentations.

Before the close of the general meeting, the Executive Board will poll the members for topics of interest and concern which we might be able to address through a speaker or presentation at future meetings.

Please give this some thought before the meeting and then take the opportunity to present us with your ideas. You may submit your proposal in writing or speak to the membership as you prefer.

New members may enroll at this meeting. Dues are \$5 per year. Please join us in giving this group a strong voice in town.

LEGAL NOTICE**LEGAL NOTICE****TOWN OF AGAWAM
AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, April 23, 1998 at 7:15 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Bell Atlantic for property located at 194 South Street.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission

Published: April 16, 1998

ADVERTISER NEWS

Agawam Democratic Town Committee Holds Annual Election Of Officers

The Agawam Democratic Town Committee held its annual election of officers at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 1st.

Elected officers are:

Chairperson: Agawam Councilor, Attorney Gina Marie Letellier.

Vice-Chairperson: Michael E. Tuckey, Sr.

Secretary: Louis J. Russo.

Treasurer: Jack Rioni.

Affirmative Action and Outreach Officer: Scott

Letendre.

Alternate Officer: Meanette Verme.

Meetings of the Agawam Democratic Town Committee are held the first Wednesday of each month at the Agawam Police Station on Springfield Street in Feeding Hills (with the exception of July, August, and December).

All interested Democrats are welcome, even urged, to attend. For more information, please call Gina Letellier at 739-2112 or Michael Tuckey at 786-2211.

Please remember that our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon — AAN!!!

*"Houses are made of wood and stone,
but only love can make a home."*

- *Anonymous*



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Attorney Scott M. Hibbert

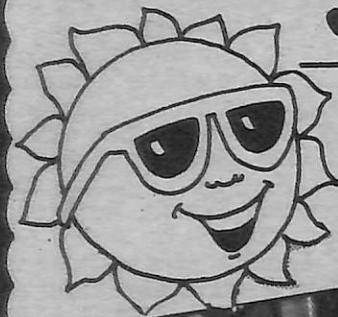
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Letters To The Editor

AHS Band's Soda Can Drive Is Set For This Saturday

To The Editor:

To The Citizens Of Agawam And Feeding Hills:

The Agawam High School Band will be having a can drive on Saturday, April 18th, at Dave's Soda and Pet Food City. The money raised by this fundraiser will be used to aid the band with its upcoming trip to Atlanta, Georgia.

Band members will be driving around town, collecting soda cans and bottles. If you would like to donate yours to the band, just give them to the member when they reach your house.

If someone does not make it to your house and you would still like to donate, you can contact Tamara Watson at the Music Extension of Agawam High School.

We thank all of the support that the town gives to the band and appreciate what you can do to aid us in this fundraiser. Again, the can drive is this Saturday, April 18th, starting at 11:00 a.m.

Sincerely,
Shawn Sherry & Carolyn Clin
Band Co-Presidents

W. Side/Ag. Open Pantry Says Thanks For Easter Support

To The Editor:

The West Springfield/Agawam Open Pantry would like to thank all of its friends who helped to make its Easter events so successful.

Over 300 baskets were distributed to needy children, and 100 of these children attended the Open Pantry Easter Egg Hunt at the Main Street Playground in West Springfield on April 11th.

Every donation and minute of time volunteered was greatly appreciated and helped to make the Easter holiday a little brighter for these children. It's wonderful to see our community pull together to make a difference (no matter how great or small) in the lives of others.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Cummings, Executive Director
West Springfield/Agawam Open Pantry

"Thank-You" For Supporting Girls' Suburban Basketball

To The Agawam Community:

It has been nearly one month's time since the 1997-1998 girls' Suburban Basketball season has ended. I would be remiss this year if several individuals were not recognized for their help throughout the course of the season.

First, thank-you to three men who are well-known in our community for their basketball expertise and ability to teach young people: Bob Hersey, the president of the Agawam Athletic Association and coach of the girls' 5th/6th grade A team; Harold Cote, the AAA's girls' coordinator and 7th/8th grade A team coach; and Lou Conte, coach of the Agawam High School girls' varsity.

All three of these men attended several of my practices this season to offer suggestions and lend their vast experience to the girls on my team. Also, whenever I called upon them for advice and explanations of the many aspects of coaching techniques and game strategy, all three made themselves available and were more than willing to share their knowledge that has been accumulated by years and years of personal time and energy dedicated to youth basketball in Agawam.

Also, thank-you to the players and parents for their support. Watching the girls develop over the course of the season and continually improve is gratifying to any coach. The seventh and eighth graders on the 7th/8th grade B team this year were a pleasure to coach. Our motto throughout the year was, "Defense is the beginning, middle, and the end. With defense, we are a team."

I look forward to the 1998-1999 season with great anticipation as the AAA remains committed to serving the community both now and in the future.

Sincerely,
Ric Sardella
Agawam

You turn our pages for all the local news...

Veterans' Corner... News And Notes For Veterans

by Ruth C. Bitzas, Veterans' Agent

In an earlier article, I explained how our State Association of Veterans' Agents formed an alliance with 33 veterans' organizations across the state for the purpose of compiling a legislative agenda for Massachusetts veterans.

Legislative achievements for 1997 included Annuities for Gold Star Parents (first in the nation); Real Estate Tax Exemptions for DAV, Gold Star Parents, Gold Star Wives, and Widows (first raise in 27 years); Military Pensions (with Massachusetts being the only state to tax); Retirement (buyback for military service toward retirement up to four years service crediting); and Agawam Veterans' Cemetery (first in state). ***

On April 6th, the Massachusetts Agents Association held its annual State House Luncheon. During ceremonies, plaques were given in recognition of outstanding support of Massachusetts veterans to Senate President Thomas Birmingham (D-Chelsea) and Speaker of the House Thomas Finneran (D-Mattapan).

Senator Robert Travaglini (D-East Boston), Rep. Kevin Poirier (R-North Attleboro), Senator Stanley Rosenberg (D-Amherst), and Rep. Paul Haley (D-Weymouth) were also honored.

This year, 72 representatives and 12 senators, as well as Governor A. Paul Cellucci, attended and addressed the group of agents and veterans' organizations from across the state. It's this kind of support that is so helpful in having positive legislation passed for our veterans.

I had the opportunity to speak with several legislators, including Rep. Dan Keenan and Senator Mike Knapik of Westfield. ***

In other news, the Second State Veterans' Cemetery project is moving right along. Federal funding has been approved and the necessary funding is contained in Capital Outlay, State Supplemental Budget. ***

Of interest to veterans or dependents in receipt on VA Compensation, Non-Service Connected

Pensions, Widow Pensions, and DIC recipients — all benefits payments will be electronically deposited into their bank accounts by 1999.

At present, 60 percent of benefit recipients already have direct deposit. Under the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, all federal agencies are required to use Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Individuals who do not have an account with a financial institution will need to participate in a government-wide program called Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT).

Benefit recipients will be assigned an account in their name at a federally-insured financial institution that allows them to access their funds at a reasonable cost, and has the same consumer protections as other accounts at the same financial institution.

Details are being developed now by the Department of the Treasury. Everything will remain in place until January 2, 1999. ***

Curious about the Holyoke Soldiers' Home? Superintendent Paul A. Morin has announced that the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke will be hosting an "Open House" on Tuesday, May 12th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Veterans residing within the five western counties are invited to attend.

The Open House is being held in conjunction with National Hospital Week and will be featuring: Free Blood Pressure Screening; Cholesterol Testing (veterans only); Respiratory Screening; Dietary Screening; Guided Tours; Eligibility Screening (bring DD214); Hospice Life Care Exhibit; Alzheimer's Association Exhibit; American Lung Association Exhibit; Council on Aging Exhibit; Suffield Oxygen Exhibit; Massachusetts Association For the Blind Exhibit; and Multiple Sclerosis Society Exhibit.

The Open House will also have free refreshments, gifts, and much more!

For further information regarding anything that you've read in this week's "Veterans' Corner," contact the veterans' office located in Agawam Town Hall, 786-0400, ext. 236/237.

Fire Wise... by Fire Chief David Pisano

How To Administer First Aid For Burns

Burns are a type of injury that requires an immediate first aid response in order to minimize the damage. Unfortunately, over the years many "remedies" have been taught that actually make the burn injury more severe.

The Agawam Fire Department offers the following emergency first aid tips so that you will act properly in the event you witness an accidental burn injury.

- Stop the burning process! If the person is on fire, have them drop and roll. Wrap them in a rug or blanket, if available.

- Apply cool water to the burned area, cover the burn with a clean dry cloth, and get medical help immediately. Cooling a burn is essential because skin will continue to burn even after the fire is out or the heat source is removed. If not cooled immediately, the burn will penetrate deeper into the skin layers. The deeper the burn, the more serious it is ... the longer it takes to heal, the greater the chance of infection, the greater the need for surgery and the more painful the experience. Cool water should be used to remove the heat; however, don't cool too large a burn — shock may occur.

- If the burn is caused by a chemical spill or scald burn, flood the burn with cool water and remove the clothing.

- Never apply a greasy ointment such as petroleum jelly or butter to a burn. These ointments may hold heat in, making the burn more

severe. Do not put ice directly on the skin, and don't pack a burn victim in ice. ***

A burn's seriousness is classified as first-, second-, and third-degree, depending on how deeply the skin has been damaged.

A first-degree burn appears red and sore, but not blistered. If cooled with water promptly, this burn should heal on its own.

A second-degree burn is blistered and painful. Do not break the blisters. They form a protective covering over the wound.

Third-degree is white, brown, or charred, and may appear painless at first. Because the victim may not feel pain, he or she may refuse treatment. Recognize the need for medical attention and get help.

Both second- and third-degree burns require medical attention. Cool the burn with water, cover with a clean cloth, and keep the victim quiet and warm until the rescue squad arrives. Call the rescue squad at 911.

DO NOT TREAT BURNS YOURSELF. You could cause an infection or lose the use of the burned area permanently. If you are burned seriously, ask to be taken to the nearest burn hospital or flown to such a facility.

Do not take burns lightly; complications can be fatal.

For further information, contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662.



The Agawam Advertiser•News

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from the State Senate



by State Senator Linda J. Melconian

Beware Of Illusory Tax Proposal During This Election Year...

Many words have been written and many statements have been mouthed regarding tax proposals this year, which is appropriate as this is an election year and all candidates want to make themselves look attractive to the voters of this Commonwealth.

There's been a lot of talk about the "biggest tax cut in history" because of the size of the state's surplus (estimated anywhere from \$350 million to almost \$825 million). The citizens of Massachusetts has obliterated the deficit and is growing the state's monetary position along such healthy figures.

But, the voters have also got to be aware that some of the tax packages being bandied about by

politicians are merely "pie in the sky" and not realistic dialogue at all.

Take House Speaker Thomas Finneran's position, for instance. The Speaker wants the people to believe that his tax proposal will be substantial and attractive for all, but in reality, his plan is largely illusory in nature and of little benefit to Joe Public.

Although Finneran proposes a tax reduction from 5.95 percent to 5.75 percent (at a cost to the state of \$293 million), and talks of reducing taxes on unearned income and capital gains (at a cost of \$348 million), as well as increasing the scope of personal exemptions (at a cost of \$122 million), this proposal may not work out to be as good as it sounds.

Part of Finneran's tax plan includes a little-known provision increasing the state's reserve from five percent to 7.5 percent of total state revenue (anticipated at \$950 million in 1998). To accomplish this initiative, \$125 million would have to be set aside.

In addition to this stipulation, 40 percent of this projected surplus (\$140 million to \$330 million) would go toward capital improvements, leaving only the remainder (\$85 million to \$380 million) to be divided up among the taxpayers, which may not be enough to pay out tax cuts, deductions, and exemptions to the alleged major recipients of Finneran's tax program.

Senate President Thomas Birmingham, on the other hand, is approaching the state's surplus in a different manner. Birmingham is calling for a tax package that, in his words, is "progressive, affordable, and real."

He is centering his plan around doubling the personal exemption for all filers (at a cost of \$443 million to the state), thus making the available surplus monies equitable to all.

Birmingham also has proposed a deduction on unearned income of up to \$4,000 to those 65 and over with an adjusted gross income of \$30,000 or less for single filers, and \$60,000 or less for joint filers. (The cost to the state is projected to be \$30 million).

Birmingham's plan would be helpful to those who need it most, while still retaining funds to allow Massachusetts to invest in its future by providing for quality education, child care, health care, and public safety.

It behooves every citizen to read between the lines of all the candidates' speechifying, and determine what sounds real and what sounds too good to be true. Most likely, the proposals that promise the most, in actuality may deliver the very least.

A so-called tax cut is not credible if it merely moves funds from one source within the governmental structure to another, while leaving the taxpayer stranded to wait for whatever crumbs remain.

I believe that Massachusetts is obligated to share the benefits of a large state surplus with its taxpayers, while, at the same time, insuring that the state's future needs and requirements are met through prudent investment of its current resources.

I further believe that the Massachusetts Senate will pass a tax cut this year, but one that is responsible and paid for in the short term, and one that is of real value to the taxpayers of this Commonwealth.

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan Announces Electricity Discount For Massachusetts' Farmers

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan recently announced a new plan to discount electricity costs for Massachusetts farmers.

The plan is a joint effort between the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture and the Department of Telecommunications and Energy to subsidize 10 percent of the electricity costs of the Commonwealth's farms.

"The Farm Energy Discount Program could mean thousands of dollars to many farms and could be significant in helping them to keep some of the remaining 600,000 acres of Massachusetts farmland open," said Keenan.

To receive assistance, a business must prove agricultural output, employ less than 75 full-time employees, and reapply for the discount every

year. For information on the Farm Energy Discount Program and an application, call (617) 727-3000, extension 102, or write to the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture at 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02202.

Information and applications are also available at the department's web site, www.massdfa.org.

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A Day In The District...

U.S. Rep. Neal Visits Various Sites In Agawam

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

While Congress may have been officially on Easter recess, the days spent back in his home district are anything but a spring break for U.S. Representative Richard E. Neal (D-Springfield).

Last Wednesday, Neal spent the morning in Agawam meeting with town officials, reading to elementary students, teaching an Agawam High School government class, and talking with senior citizens before heading to Springfield's Forest Park Junior High School for a teleconference with Vice-President Al Gore.

Ironically, Neal spent his last few minutes in Agawam touring the new addition at Clark School with Principal Sandra Howard before joining students, parents, and school administrators in Springfield in a telephone conference discussing the President's plan to use federal money to help communities renovate and add to their schools. Neal said the conference was being held at Forest Park Junior High because the building is a prime example of the poor condition of many old school buildings throughout New England.

Neal said similar conferences were being held across the country to demonstrate support for President Clinton's \$22 billion initiative to provide communities with help in building, renovating, and modernizing their schools.

"Nobody has the capacity within the constraints of a local budget to do the rehab and construction necessary in our public schools," Neal said. "New England has a lot of old school buildings that need renovation, and it's important to point out that these older buildings were not designed and are not equipped for the sophisticated use of computers and modern technology."

Escorted by Town Clerk Richard Theroux, Neal began his tour of Agawam at Town Hall, meeting briefly with the Mayor and at length with Veterans' Agent Ruth Bitzas for an update on the plans for the Veterans' Cemetery.

Robert McKean, Massachusetts Veterans Services' Director of External Affairs, and Mrs. Bitzas spent nearly an hour with Neal going over the plans for the state's first Veterans' Cemetery on Main Street.

"The Congressman had not seen the master plan and we showed him the architectural drawings of the buildings," Mrs. Bitzas said. "Mr. Neal told us we had his support for whatever we needed."

Neal said he was told there were some environmental issues associated with the project, and he agreed to do what he could to obtain the necessary agricultural offsets to replace about 22 acres of the site for use as farmland.

A long-time friend and political supporter of Neal's, Theroux told us, "This was a good opportunity for the Congressman to touch base on local issues, and it's a good chance for the town to let him know if there's anything he can do to help us. I've always believed in him as a good public official and as someone who could do a lot for Agawam."

Theroux praised Neal as a representative in the true sense of being someone representing the people, and doing whatever he can to help constituents solve whatever problems they might have dealing with federal agencies.

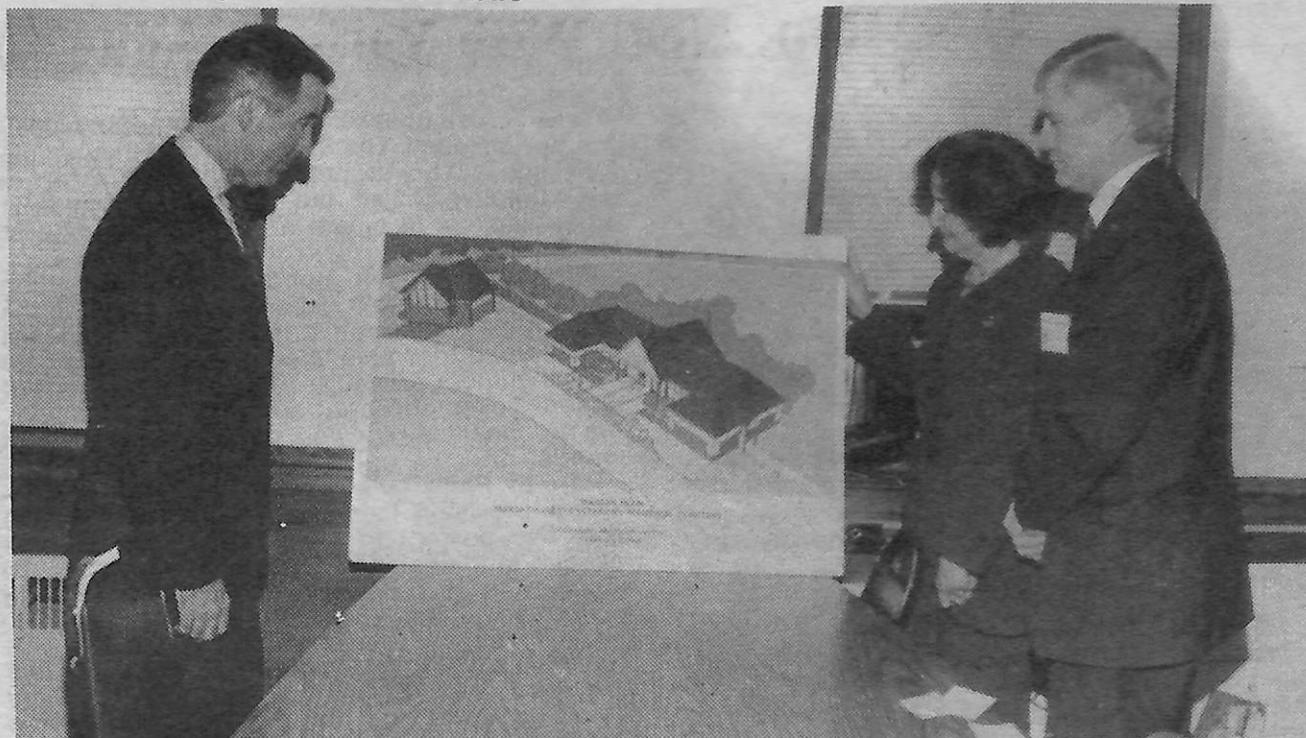
"The issues are taken care of very quickly and correctly," Theroux said. "He was very helpful to a town resident trying to extend a relative's visa because there was an illness in the family. Just today at the High School, he was approached by a guidance counselor about a problem a student was having and Congressman Neal immediately called his office, staying on the line until the problem was solved."

Both former teachers, Neal and Theroux dusted off their classroom skills in a visit to Joseph Fitzgerald's 11th grade U.S. History class at the High School.

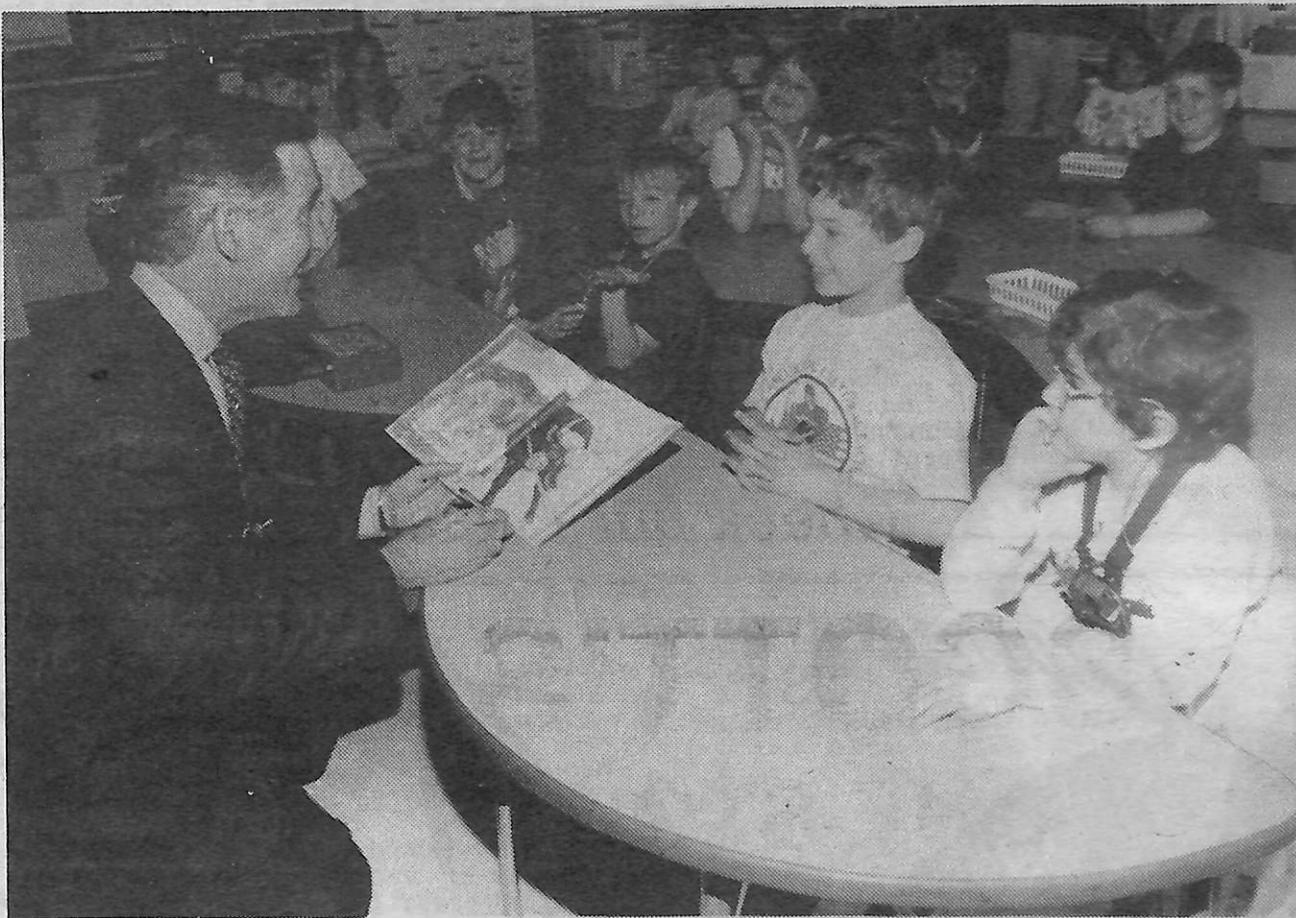
Kids Were Very Responsive To Neal..."

"The kids were very responsive to Congressman Neal, and he made a good point by explaining that the taxes taken out of their paychecks for Social Security pay for their grandparents' retirement benefits, just as someone else will be paying into the system to help them when they retire. He said the system is like a safety net across the generations, helping us all," Theroux said.

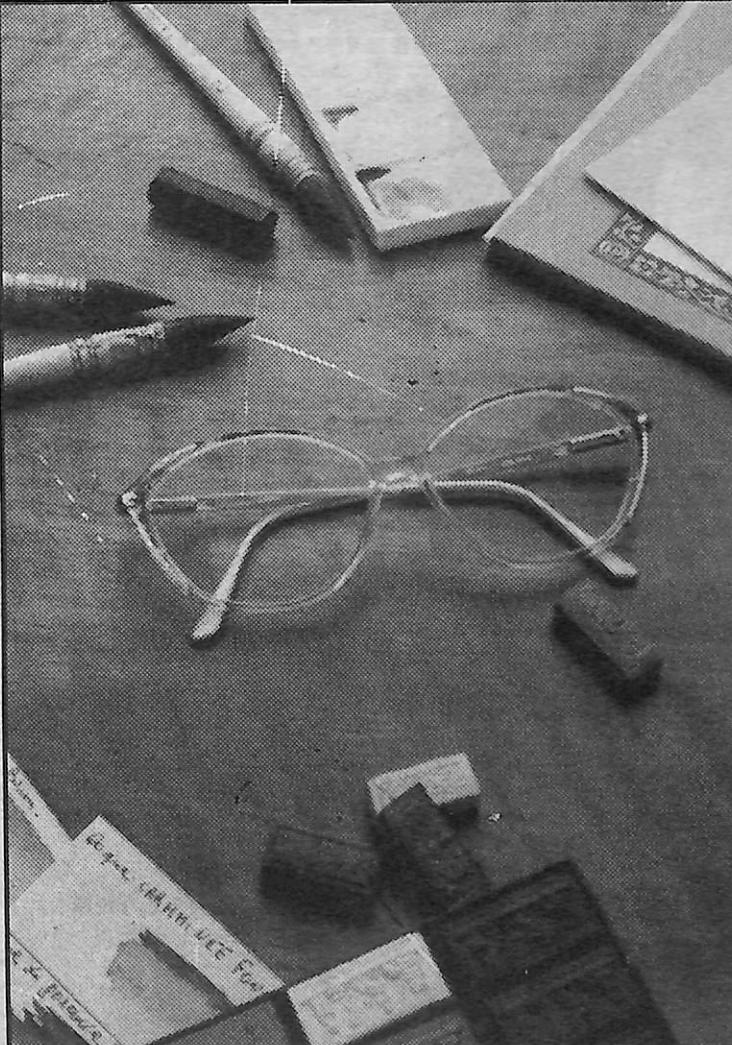
SEE NEAL - Page 8...



AT AGAWAM TOWN HALL, U.S. Representative Richard E. Neal (far left) looks over architectural drawings of the proposed Veterans' Cemetery in Agawam with Veterans' Agent Ruth Bitzas and Robert McKean, Massachusetts Veterans Services' Director of External Affairs. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



U.S. REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD E. NEAL reads to Agawam schoolchildren (including Joshua Ayotte and Maria Graziano) during his visit to Clark Elementary School. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



Agawam Opticians

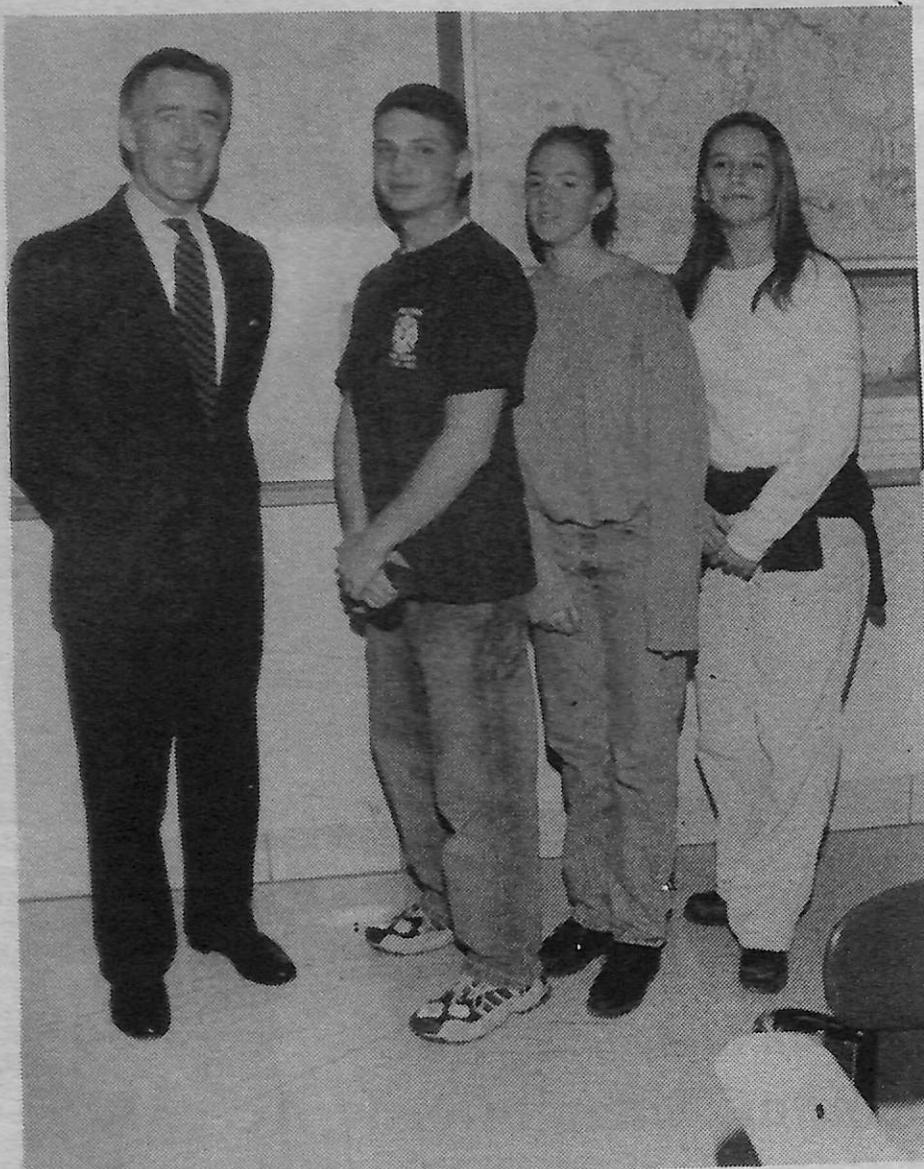
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U.S. Rep. Neal With Various Agawam Constituents



IN LEFT PHOTO: U.S. Representative Richard E. Neal with Agawam High School students Jason Gagne, Katie Theroux, and Kara Tierney. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Neal and Clark School Principal Sandra Howard discuss the work in progress being done at the school. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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Manhattan Bagels

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U.S. REP. RICHARD E. NEAL speaks with Agawam Town Clerk Richard Theroux. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

NEAL - from Page 6...

Appointed by President Clinton to the Pension Advisory Committee, Neal told the High School juniors that pensions, Social Security benefits, and personal savings make up the three-legged stool underpinning the country's retirement system.

From the High School, where concerns over retirement issues are far removed from students' everyday concerns, Neal stopped in at the Agawam Senior Center, where the issues are up close and personal to the retirees living on fixed incomes.

Visiting the center at its busiest time of day, Neal was able to speak to dozens of seniors who were attending the daily luncheon. Just about everyone expressed a concern over the stability of the Social Security Program, and all had the same message for him to bring back to Washington: "Save Social Security."

"I was able to reassure them that there is no evidence of any problems in the Social Security System until the year 2029, so we have the next three decades to correct any problems," Neal said.

Neal said the current generation of senior citizens are generally proponents of government as a positive force in their lives. "The kids haven't seen the before and after like the seniors have," Neal said. "The seniors know first-hand how government has changed the way they live. They grew up during the Depression and saw Social Security introduced; they went to college on their GI benefits, and they saw government stabilize their pensions and create the minimum wage."

Neal was first elected to Congress in 1988 after having served as a Springfield City Councilor and as the city's mayor for five years. Neal is a member of the Ways and Means Committee and has served in a leadership position within the House as an At-Large Democratic Whip since 1992.

He was appointed to the House Steering and Policy Committee, and he was appointed as co-chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs and as co-chairman of the Democratic Caucus Task Force on Welfare Reform.

Neal is married to the former Maureen Conway of Holyoke. The couple has four children: Rory, Brendan, Maura, and Sean.

Rep. Keenan Receives Clerks' Award

The Western Massachusetts City & Town Clerks' Association has presented State Representative Daniel F. Keenan with the "Legislator of the Year" Award.

The clerks recognized Keenan for his accessibility and responsiveness to the needs of his constituents, as well as his successful efforts in increasing the fees cities and towns receive upon the issuance of sporting licenses, and his recent efforts in securing funding for the central voter registry.

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STATE REP. DAN KEENAN (second from right) receives the "Legislator of the Year" Award from the Western Massachusetts City & Town Clerks' Association at The Log Cabin Restaurant on Thursday, April 9th. Presenting the award are Beverly J. Radner (Secretary of Association), Maureen T. Winseck (President of the Association), and Agawam Town Clerk Richard Theroux (Vice-President of the Association). Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

At Tuesday, April 14th Meeting...

School Comm. Unanimously Accepts Amended Spending Plan For Next Year

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

After listening to one resident speak in favor of the School Budget, the School Committee unanimously approved an amended spending plan that will add \$62,500 to the budget originally proposed by the school superintendent in February.

At Tuesday night's meeting, the School Committee gave its final approval to a spending plan totaling \$22,049,261 with no discussion of the budget following a public hearing which drew only one town resident to offer comment.

Calling the budget a good, though not a perfect document, town resident Debra Curtis called on the members of Town Council to support the School Department's efforts on behalf of the students.

"I think it's very important for the council to join our train and to get them moving with us," Mrs. Curtis said.

In a voice vote, the School Committee was unanimous in approving the budget which adds \$62,500 to the budget as submitted by School Superintendent Frank Ameruso.

In a workshop session last month, the School Committee increased the superintendent's budget by adding a full-time substance abuse counselor to the Junior High, a regular education teacher to the Middle School, and funding for an outdoor fitness track at the Junior High. The committee approved one cut to the budget by eliminating \$500 earmarked for reading material for the High School's detention program.

School Committeewoman Susan Pettazzoni said the budget was "a well-written document

reflecting a lot of hard work by the School Department administration."

As School Committee Chairman, Mayor Christopher C. Johnson joined the committee in its unanimous support of the School Budget. But, Johnson could not guarantee there will be no cuts in the School Department budget that will be included in the town's operating budget proposal.

Johnson expects to submit his overall town budget to Town Council for consideration early in May. Once the budget reaches Town Council, the councilors will have 45 days to take action on the spending proposal.

Difficult To Fully Fund Superintendent's Budget...

In an interview prior to Tuesday night's School Committee meeting, Johnson told *The AAN* it would be difficult for him to fully fund the superintendent's budget even without the \$62,500 added by the School Committee.

Johnson said the superintendent's original budget represents an eight percent increase over last year's spending plan, while the town is only allowed to increase the tax levy by 2½ percent under Proposition 2½.

Given the fact that the town must begin to pay principal and interest costs for the school addition projects, and the fact that the projected state revenue supporting education is expected to be about \$500,000 less than last year, Johnson said the town could be shouldering an additional \$1.2 million in school-related expenses.

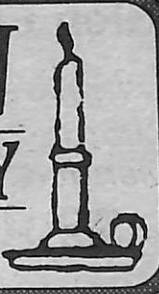
"It looks like this will be a much tighter fiscal year than 1998," Johnson said.

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- Scent of the month -

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2 New Scents Coming Soon!

At April 21st Council Mtg. ... Bitzas's Used Car License Ordinance To Be Considered

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

More cars on display at used car lots. Fewer used car lots dotting the landscape.

At least, that's what Town Council Licensing Committee Chairman George Bitzas would like to see. On Tuesday, April 21st, Town Council will consider an ordinance sponsored by Bitzas to reduce the number of used car licenses from 35 to 30 through attrition.

"This won't affect any of our current license holders because I'm proposing to do it through attrition," Bitzas said.

At a Licensing Committee meeting earlier this month, Bitzas told a group of used car dealers that the town was in the process of trying to make it easier for them to do business, but he warned that the consequences would be costly if dealers continued to violate the rules.

"If we make the rules easier, you'll pay dearly for it," Bitzas said. "We're here to help you and to listen to if you think the rules are unfair."

The dealers said if they follow the current rules, their lots are half empty because the rules were written when cars were double the size of today's compact models. Furthermore, the dealers say they are losing usable space because they are required to set aside too many spaces for customer parking.

Dealers' Frustration

Peter Parrotta of Agawam, whose Main Street location is licensed for 18 cars, summed up the dealers' frustration. "We're not a supermarket of cars. We get one customer at a time, but our lot has to be designed as if we had seven customers at a time."

After last week's meeting of Town Council's Rules Committee, an easing of the restrictions placed on used car dealers seems certain. What's not so certain is how soon the rules will be changed and how many more cars will be allowed on each lot.

In March, a surprise inspection of all used car dealers found 13 dealers had more cars parked on their lots than allowed by their licenses. Letters were sent to the dealers found in violation of their licenses, warning them that they must be in compliance with the rules within 14 days or they would face a penalty from the Licensing Committee. Three weeks later, a subsequent inspection found most of the dealers in compliance with their licenses.

Rules Committee Chairman (Councilor) John Negrucci said it could be more than a month before the committee's recommendations reach Town Council for a vote.

Building Inspector's Plan

After listening to Building Inspector Dominic Urbinati's suggestions for revamping the rules under which used car dealers are licensed, the Rules Committee agreed to ask a dealer to set up their used car lot under the provisions of the building inspector's plan.

"We want to see what a car lot would look like using the building inspector's plan," Negrucci said. "We'll be looking into beautification, too, so the lots will be palatable to the townspeople."

Bitzas said the two council committees are working together to make common sense rules the dealers can live with while improving the look of the neighborhood.

Among the changes included in Urbinati's plan:

- decreasing the space required from 300 to 250 square feet per car.
- increasing the buffer zone to 10 feet.
- including the area of the buffer zone when calculating the number of cars allowed on the lot.
- enforcing provisions of the law that allow granting and renewing of licenses only to persons "whose principal business is the buying and selling of second-hand motor vehicles."
- reducing the number of customer parking places.
- requiring dealers to correct all zoning, building, or sanitary code violations before a license is granted or renewed.

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\$6.99

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(12 Pk. Cans)

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Plus Deposit

Busch Exports

(24 12 Oz. Btls.)

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Plus Deposit



BBC Growlers

(Half Gallon)

2 For \$7.99

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Beck's And Beck's Dark

(12 Pk. Btls.)

\$8.99

Plus Deposit



LIQUORS

Kahlua

(750 ml.)

\$12.99

Southern Comfort

(1.75 Ltr.)

\$15.99



Jack Daniels

(1.75 Ltr.)

\$25.99



Canadian Mist

(1.75 Ltr.)

\$12.99

WINES

Almaden Bag-Box (5 Ltr.)

Most Flavors - **\$7.99**



Burgundy & White Zinfandel - **\$10.99**

Chardonnay & Cabernet - **\$13.99**

Lindeman's Bin 65

Chardonnay (750 ml.)

\$5.99



Ernest & Julio Gallo

White Zinfandel (1.5 Ltr.)

\$4.99

Glen Ellen

Cabernet, Chardonnay & Merlot (1.5 Ltr.)

\$9.99

Crystal Peak

Dry White Wine (750 ml.)

\$5.99

Bin 40 Merlot (750 ml.)

\$6.99

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Cellucci Fundraiser At The Oaks Banquet House...



IN LEFT PHOTO: Mayor Christopher C. Johnson, Joann McGeoghan, Rita Moore, and Rob Danie at the campaign fundraiser for Massachusetts Governor Paul Cellucci. **IN RIGHT PHOTO:** Governor Cellucci addresses his supporters at the campaign fundraiser, which was held at The Oaks on Wednesday, April 8th. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Regular Council Mtg. Agenda For 4/21/98

1. Citizen's Speak Time
2. Roll Call
3. Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance
4. Minutes - Regular Council Meeting of 4/6/98
5. Declaration from Council President
6. Presentation of Petitions, Memorials & Remonstrances

(a) Resolutions

1. TR-98-11-A Resolution Approving the Commencement of Negotiations with Berkshire Power Development for a Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement and the Designation of a Councilor to Participate in the Negotiation Process (Mayor).

2. TR-98-12-A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Accept a Parcel of Land Owned by Amber Development Corporation Which is Located Adjacent to the Former Tuckahoe Turf Farm in Agawam (Mayor).

3. TR-98-13-A Resolution Authorizing an Order of Taking Under the Authority of Section 14 of Chapter 40 and Chapter 79 of the Mass. General Laws for Temporary and Permanent Easements for the Combined Sewer Overflow Elimination Project (Mayor).

(b) Petitions

PE-98-1-Group Petition, Art. 8, Sec. 8-1(b)(Evacuation Plan)(Pres. Rheault)(Set Public Hearing Date).

7. Report of Council Committees

8. Elections

None.

9. Public Hearings

None.

10. Old Business

(a)

1. TOR-98-2-An Ordinance to Amend Sec. 49-7(9)(a) & (c) of the Code of the Town of Agawam to Update the Hourly Wages for Election and Census Workers and the Annual Salary for Members of the Board of Registrars (Sponsored by Richard M. Theroux, Town Clerk and George Bitzas, Councilor (Refer. to Ordin. Comm. on 4/6/98)(2nd Reading).

2. TOR-98-3-An Ordinance to Amend Ch. 114, Sec. 144-8 entitled Number of Licenses Restricted of the Code of the Town of Agawam (Coun. Bitzas)(1st Reading).

3. TOR-98-4-An Ordinance to amend the Code of the Town of Agawam, Ch. 180, in order to regulate Adult Businesses in the Town of Agawam (Coun. Simpson & Thompson)(Coun. to act as Petitioner).

4. TO-98-16-Voucher List (\$305.15).

Agawam Senior Ctr. Will Help Residents Fill Out Fuel Assistance/Food Stamp Applications

The Agawam Senior Center is offering assistance filling out fuel assistance/food stamp applications.

Fuel assistance help in continuing until April

30th. Food stamp information and help in ongoing.

Call the Senior Center at 786-0400, ext. 242/243 for an appointment on Wednesday mornings from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

For copies of photos in this edition, please contact AAN photographer Jack Devine at (413) 789-0053; Jack has all the negatives and will be glad to help you...

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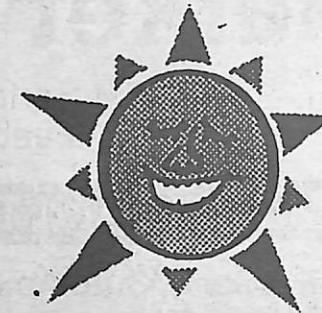
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— Agawam Obituaries —

Albina R. Settembro

Albina R. Settembro, 84, of 50 Oak Hill Avenue, Agawam, died in Holyoke Hospital.

She was a cafeteria worker in the Agawam schools for 17 years, and retired in 1980. She was previously the payroll supervisor at the former Wico Electric Co., and a window dresser for the former McClellan's Department Store.

Born in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, she moved to Agawam as a child. She was graduated from Agawam High School and the former Springfield Art School.

She was a communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Church, and a member of the Women's Civil Defense Corps and the Women's Division of the Dante Club of West Springfield.

She also was a vice-president of Daughters of Columbus Lodge 44 in West Springfield.

She leaves her husband of 54 years, Albert J.; a son, Albert C.; a daughter, Carole J. Settembro; six grandchildren; and nephews and nieces.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home, with the burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the church at 103 Bridge Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

Gladys A. Baker

Gladys A. (Choquette) Baker, 86, of Springfield, died at an Agawam nursing home.

She was a retired nurse, and the proprietor of the former Baker's Rest Home on Warner Street.

Born in Chester, Pennsylvania, she was a long-time resident of Springfield.

She leaves a son, Robert of Houston, Texas; a daughter, Sandra Bremner of Southwick; a brother, Charles of Newington, Connecticut; a sister, Pauline O'borne of Easthampton; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral was private, and Southwick-Forastiere Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

Feeding Hills Market And Deli

634 Springfield Street
Feeding Hills

Monday And Tuesday Specials

Land O' Lakes White American Chese . . .	\$2.59 Lb.
Low Salt Imported Ham	\$3.49 Lb.
Oven-Roasted Turkey Breast	\$4.39 Lb.
Wunderbar German Bologna	\$1.79 Lb.

Wednesday And Thursday Specials

Ragu Traditional Spaghetti Sauce (32 Oz.) . . .	\$1.29
Ocean Spray Cranberry Juice (48 Oz.)	\$1.79
Fresh Baked Italian Bread	99¢
Jumbo White Eggs	99¢ Doz.
Fresh Homemade Potato or Macaroni Salad	\$1.59 Lb.
Fresh Ground 90% Lean Hamburger	\$2.39 Lb.

Friday, Saturday, And Sunday Specials

Any 10" Grinder w/20 Oz. Soda	\$2.99 Plus Tax
<u>Morning Special</u> — Any Size Coffee,	
Any Newspaper, And Any Fresh Baked Pastry	All For Only 99¢

- Best Deli And Party Platters Around
- Fresh Breads Made In Our Ovens
- Full Mass. Lottery

786-0772

Beatrice H. Carle

Beatrice H. (Hill) Carle, 72, of Chicopee, a 30-year foster-mother, died in an Agawam nursing home.

Born in Dover, New Hampshire, she lived in Chicopee for 47 years, and was a communicant of the Holy Name Church.

She was a clerical volunteer with the Department of Social Services, and was named foster-mother of 1993 by the state Family Resources Commission.

Her husband, Harold G. Carle, died in 1988.

She leaves four sons, Michael F. and Ronald A. of Springfield, David B. of Feeding Hills, and John E. Carle of Chicopee; a daughter, Donna M. Houle of Chicopee; two stepsons, Donald and Paul Carle, and a stepdaughter, Marie Bisson, of New Hampshire; a brother, Edward of Springfield; and six grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Corridan Funeral Home and the church, with the burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the parish memorial fund at 33 South Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

Frank V. Sassarone

Frank V. Sassarone, 85, of 43 Sampson Street, Chicopee, died at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

He worked for the Agawam Highway Department for 20 years, and retired in 1978. He also was an Agawam auxiliary policeman for 30 years, and was stationed at the Riverside Amusement Park.

Born in the Bronx, New York, he lived in Agawam most of his life before moving to Chicopee 11 years ago.

He leaves his wife, the former Evelyn Donald; two sons, Ronald and Richard of Feeding Hills; three daughters, Patricia Rose of Chicopee, Marie Sabilia of Feeding Hills, and Patricia McCarthy of Feeding Hills; three sisters, Josephine Monaco of New York City, Fay Daino of California, and Angie Boland of New York City; 10 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home, with the burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Dorothy A. Brusseau

Dorothy A. (Cooper) Brusseau, 71, of 205 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, died in Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Born in Westfield, she lived in the Agawam/Feeding Hills area most of her life.

She was communicant of Sacred Heart Church and a member of the Agawam Senior Center.

Her husband, Ernest G., died in 1983.

She leaves a son, Gary of Agawam; a daughter, Donna Agustynowicz of Westfield; a brother, Richard of Becket; and three grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home and in the church, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Brightside for Families and Children, Riverdale Road, West Springfield, MA 01089.

"Friends" Of The Senior Ctr. To Host Pancake Breakfast

The "Friends" of the Agawam Senior Center are holding a Pancake Breakfast at the Agawam Senior Center on Sunday, April 19th.

Servings will be from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children under 10. Members of the Lions Club will be making and serving the pancakes and sausages.

Tickets are available from any board member of "Friends" or at the desk at the Senior Center. Board members of "Friends" will be serving. All are welcome.

This is a fundraiser for "Friends," which is looking to build up its treasury after the donation to the Senior Center to pay for all the carpeting at the Center.

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Families



Riverside's "Sunken Treasure" Salvaged By Historical Association

A treasure has long lay buried beneath the sparkling waters of the fountain at Riverside Park's Shipwreck Falls and the Park's Wishing Well on Main Street. Over the past couple of years, patrons of Riverside Park have tossed thousands of coins into the fountains in hopeful expectation of the fulfillment of their secret wishes.

The new management of Riverside generously offered to give us their "salvage rights" to this treasure to any civic group who would be willing to retrieve and process the coins on the condition that the proceeds be used for some community program.

The Agawam Historical Association was quick to snap up the offer as a means of supplementing its fundraising efforts for the new Historical and Fire Museum. Under the leadership of Rick Bellico, President of the Historical Association, a collaborative plan was worked out with Bob MacDonald, Managing Director of the Work Opportunity Center, whereby both organizations will benefit.

The total value of all coins recovered would be shared by the Agawam Historical Association and the Work Opportunity Center, who agreed to retrieve, clean, sort, and package all the coins as a means of providing temporary additional employment for some of its clients.

A total of \$4,546.50 was salvaged from the fountains. After deducting the Work Opportunity's costs, the remaining \$2,273.25 has been turned over to the Historical Association and applied to the Museum building fund.

"Riverside Park makes every effort to be good neighbors and an active supporter of community programs. We're extremely pleased to contribute to such a worthwhile cause and hope that we can double the amount this season," said Shari Blackman, Riverside Park Public Relations Spokesperson.

The Historical Association is now \$10,000 away from its \$30,000 fundraising goal. It continues to seek contributions and is also continuing the sale of historic gift items as part of its efforts to raise funds for the proposed new Fire Museum.

Gift items are permanently displayed at the new Fire Headquarters on Main Street.

For all the news on local church events, you turn our pages each and every week...

THE FUTURE HOME OF
THE AGAWAM HISTORICAL
& FIRE HOUSE MUSEUM



RICK BELLICO (center), President of the Agawam Historical Association, receives a check from Ron Severt, Marketing Director of Riverside Amusement Park. Looking on are Shari Blackman (far left), Riverside Park Public Relations Spokesperson, and Marilyn Curry and William Miller of the Historical Association. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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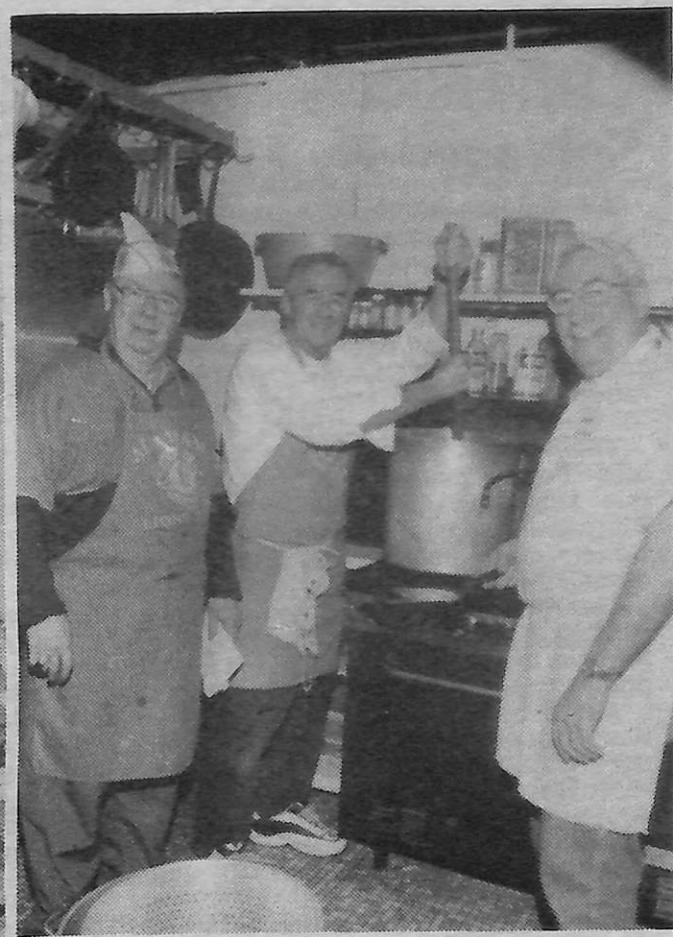
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Agawam Lioness Club Holds Ziti Supper...



IN LEFT PHOTO: A future Lioness?? — 3½ year-old Stephanie Roulier. IN CENTER PHOTO: Lioness Club members Joy Hannon, Marianne Campbell, and Marge Disco. RIGHT PHOTO: Lions Club "chefs" Jim Loomis, John Negrucci, and Ed Disco. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

UMass Amherst To Host Reunion '98 Program In June

The University of Massachusetts Amherst is hosting its Reunion '98 program from Friday, June 5th, through Sunday, June 7th, for alumni in the classes of 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, and Emeriti (those who have already celebrated their 50th reunion).

The weekend activities will include special faculty presentations, a parade, a barbecue, and evening class banquets. Registration is required.

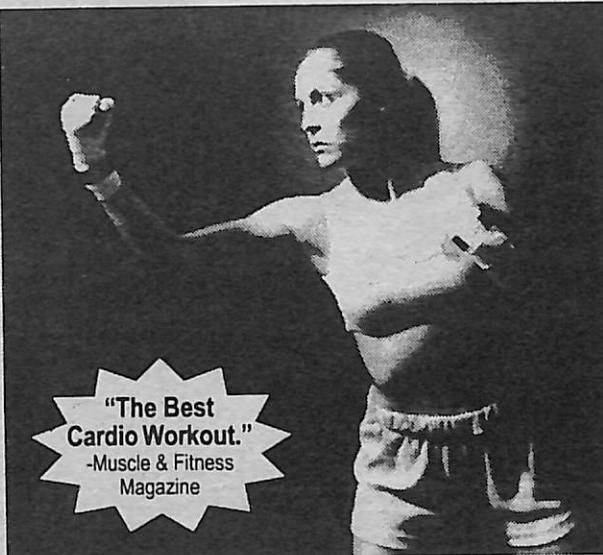
For more information, please contact the UMass Alumni Office at (800) 456-UMASS or (413) 545-2317.

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KARDIO KICKBOX will give you the results you've always wanted, while also learning basic self defense skills. From shoulders to calves you will become

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Polish American Club In Feeding Hills Slates Ziti Dinner For Saturday, May 2nd

The Polish American Club, 136 Southwick St., Feeding Hills will be hosting a Ziti Dinner on Saturday, May 2nd in the club's pavilion from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Cost for the event is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. Proceeds will be used for the annual Children's Christmas Party.

Tickets may be purchased at the door or by calling Janice Barako at 786-9798.

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Mother-Daughter Special Month Of May

Facial With Consultation **\$25.00**
(Regularly \$35.00)

Mother-Daughter Special Month Of May

Mother's Manicure - **\$10.00**
Daughter's Manicure - No Charge
(Under Age 10)

Daughter's Manicure - Half Price
(Age 10 And Over)

Fashion Show Brunch To Be Held By The Junior Women's Club

The Agawam Junior Women's Club will hold a springtime Fashion Show Brunch on May 17th at the Colosseum Banquet House in West Springfield. The proceeds from this event will be used towards various community projects.

The brunch will begin at 10:00 a.m. and feature approximately 30 to 40 models of various ages. The clothes are being provided by JC Penney and Annie's Attic, both of Holyoke. The cost for this event is \$15 per person, which will include brunch.

If you wish to purchase tickets for this fashion show, please call Betty at 786-4357 or Laurie at 789-4914.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts.

Junior Women's Club Schedules Arts & Crafts Fair For Sat., June 6th

The Agawam Junior Women's Club's 24th Annual Arts & Crafts Fair is scheduled for Saturday, June 6th from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

The Fair will be held on the grounds of the Captain Charles Leonard House at 663 Main Street in Agawam. Many artisans and crafters from surrounding communities and states will feature a wide variety of quality arts and crafts. The show will be juried and feature approximately 80-100 exhibitors.

Admission is free and all proceeds benefit the AJWC Scholarship Fund. Tours of the historic Captain Charles Leonard House will be available. A Youth Art Exhibit will be on display as well.

The size of each space will be 12' x 12' and a \$45 showing fee will be due at time of application. A food concession will also be available during the day for your convenience.

For more information or an application, please call Paula at 786-0511 or Margaret at 786-2651.

"Senior Games" To Be Held At Forest Park June 12th-14th

June 12th-14th and the Senior Games are approaching rapidly. It is time to sign-up and refresh your skills.

Shuffleboard practice will be held at Forest Park every Tuesday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. (weather permitting) with Janice Schermerhorn. You can practice any day on your own as long as the clubhouse is open. Anyone wishing to learn the game and rules is more than welcome.

There are many more events that are available. If you want to participate and need information and an application form, see or call Gail Freeman at the Senior Center (786-0400, ext. 242). You can also contact an ASGA member or come to their meeting on April 16th (the third Thursday of the month) at the Senior Center.

There are also volunteer opportunities. It is a great way to meet people, exercise, and have fun.

New Cribbage Tourney Is Now Taking Place At Agawam Senior Ctr.

A new Cribbage Tournament is underway at the Agawam Senior Center. Meeting time is every Friday at 1:00 p.m.

This tournament lasts until the end of June. It is not too late to join as perfect attendance is not required. Come and join the fun.

The Winter Cribbage Tournament ended the end of March. The winners were Maurice Bellemere, first; James Quinn, second; and Ernest Moccio (third).

There were a number of members with perfect attendance, including Ernest Moccio, Oliver Muldrew, Frank Cerpovicz, Ed Krygowski, and Edna Krygowski.

The next tournament will start in the fall at a date to be announced.

**Remember, our deadline is
each Tuesday at 12:00 noon
- ADVERTISER NEWS!!!**

Having A "Roaring" Good Time...



"SERVICE WITH A SMILE" at the Agawam Lioness Club's ziti supper (from left to right): Joanne Rocca, Marilyn Kane, Monique Gorman, Joann McGeoghan, Terry Angotti, Mary Roy, and Rosemarie Maniscalco. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



AT THE RECENT ZITI SUPPER held by the Agawam Lioness Club, the Peterson family — Alexis, Rich, and Max — enjoyed a pleasant evening out. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



**Secretary's week begins April 22.
Call us today and let us help you
express your appreciation with
beautiful spring flowers. Quantity
discounts available.**

**LONGMEADOW
FLOWERS**
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Feeding Hills

Happy Birthday!!!



ON TUESDAY, APRIL 7TH, Flora Bretton celebrated her 101st birthday at the Agawam Senior Center. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Shopping Trip To Outlet Stores In Kittery, Maine

The Northwood Civic Association is planning a bus trip to the Outlet Stores in Kittery, Maine, on Saturday, May 2nd.

The trip is open to all, and there are a few seats still available.

The bus leaves Feeding Hills at 7:30 a.m., returning approximately 8:30 p.m. Round trip costs \$20.

For further information or reservations, call 786-3249.

Community Grange's Tag & Bake Sale

Community Grange of Feeding Hills will hold a tag and bake sale on Saturday, April 25th from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Grange Hall located at 47 North West St.

The kitchen will be open for sandwiches, hot dogs, coffee, etc. A large supply of books, records, fabric, craft items, trim, and ribbons will be available along with the usual treasures.

For the best in local goods and services, be sure to check our classified ads in each edition...

March Activities At Heritage Hall...



IN LEFT PHOTO: Activities Director Doreen Pedro demonstrated her "Bingo-calling" ability at Heritage Hall's West Building on Wednesday, March 17th. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Mary-Jean Zemba and Carol Feeley had a good time at the St. Patrick's Day dinner at Heritage Hall's North Building. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



Community "Junior" Grange No. 105 Of Feeding Hills Is Looking For New Members

Community Junior Grange No. 105 of Feeding Hills is looking for new members. Girls and boys between the ages of five and 14 are welcome to join.

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. and last about one hour. The Grange Hall is located at 47 North West St. Activities include community service, crafts, safety, deaf awareness, public speaking,

photography, sewing, guest speakers, fair participation, and the ritual of the Grange.

Dues are only \$1 per year and parents/guardians can become an Honorary member. Refreshments are provided.

More information can be obtained by contacting Pauline Sosnowich, Leader, at 789-2061.

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Chicken Milanese	\$9.95
Scrod Bella Vista	\$9.95
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Get 1 Free**

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Half-Price Pizza

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(Not In Conjunction With Any Other Coupons)
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786-7941



MR. & MRS. DOUGLAS P. ROSE with the bridegroom's parents, Ralph and Eileen Rose of Feeding Hills.

Leandra E. Scheu Becomes Bride Of Douglas P. Rose

First Baptist Church of Greenacres, Florida was the setting for the February 21st wedding of Leandra E. Scheu and Douglas P. Rose.

The bride is the daughter of Brian Scheu of West Palm Beach and Linda Means of Boynton Beach. Parents of the bridegroom are Ralph and Eileen Rose of 138 Princeton Ave., Feeding Hills.

The groom is a graduate of Agawam High School.

Laureen Luke attended her sister as matron-of-honor. Indigo Gregory of



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Longmeadow served as best man to the bridegroom. David and Derek Rose, brothers of the bridegroom, served as ushers.

The newlyweds are both serving in the United States Air Force. After their honeymoon cruise to the Bahamas, Douglas returned to England and Leandra to Aurora, Colorado. In January of 1999, they will be stationed together somewhere in the United States.

— Check our classified ads —

There's GREAT INTEREST in Westbank's New IRA Certificates

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6.17%	6.00%
Annual Percentage Yield*	Interest Rate

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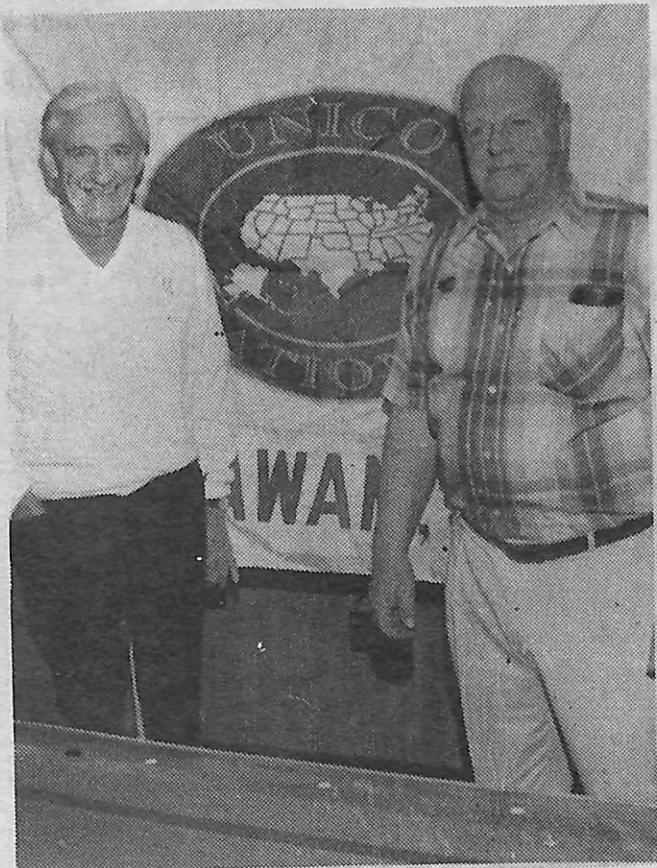
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* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) assumes interest remains on deposit for one year at stated rate of interest. Minimum balance to open and earn APY is stated in this ad. Interest compounded and credited to the account monthly. APY is accurate as of 1/12/98. This offer may be withdrawn at any time. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. Deposits are F.D.I.C. insured to \$100,000. Fees could reduce earnings on your account.

MEMBER F.D.I.C.





BRUNO MAULE AND ART CHASE are busy making preparations for Agawam UNICO's annual Pancake Breakfast. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Agawam UNICO To Hold Annual Pancake Breakfast On May 3rd

The Agawam Chapter of UNICO National will be holding its annual Pancake Breakfast on May 3rd.

The breakfast will be held at the Italian Sporting Club on Cooper Street beginning at 8:00 a.m. and will continue until 12:00 noon. The cost for the breakfast is \$3 per ticket, with children under 10, \$1.

All proceeds from the breakfast will be used to benefit Agawam UNICO and its many charitable activities. Agawam UNICO is well-known for its commitment to the community and the residents of Agawam.

Agawam UNICO continually provides scholarships as well as helping Agawam's mentally and physically challenged. The organization is also known for its contributions to the many student groups and civic activities throughout the community.

Anyone wishing to purchase tickets can obtain them from any member, at the door, or by calling this year's chairman, Art Chase, at 786-4265 or Bruno Maule at 789-0082.

**The
“Unforgettable”
Josh Lightcap
Is 21!!!**



Love,
Mom, Dad, John, & Erin

Catholic Women's Club To Sponsor Spring Fashion Show

The Catholic Women's Club of Agawam will sponsor a Spring Fashion Show on Wednesday, April 29th, at St. John's Hall. Fashions are by Talbot's of Longmeadow.

Chairpersons are Paula Raiche and Lillian Doyle, and the committee members assisting them are as follows: Eleanor Balboni, Angela Beaudry, Kay Capitanio, Judy Clow, Penny DeForge, Adele Gallano, Marianne Green, Sheryl Mardeusz, Joan Malinoski, Cathy Rourke, Kathie Schafer, Judy Shrader, Mary Socha, and Jane Trevethan.

Tickets are \$8 and may be purchased from any member of the committee or at St. John's Rectory office.

Anyone wanting to reserve a table for six or eight, please call 786-9586.

For the best in local goods and services, be sure to check our classified ads each and every week...

Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, April 20th: Senior Center closed (Patriots' Day).

Tuesday, April 21st: Stuffed cabbage, potato cheesecake, Mexican corn, whole wheat bread, ice cream.

Wednesday, April 22nd: Chicken chow mein, fluffy rice, Chinese noodles, fortune cookie, rye bread, pineapple.

Thursday, April 23rd: Escarole soup, chicken cutlet on a roll with tomato and lettuce, potato puff, brownie.

Friday, April 24th: Vegetable beef soup, cheese and pepperoni pizza, tossed salad, peaches.

(Menu subject to change without notice.)

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&
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40 Lb. Bags
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40 Lb. Bags
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Regular Mulch - **\$22.00** Per Yd.
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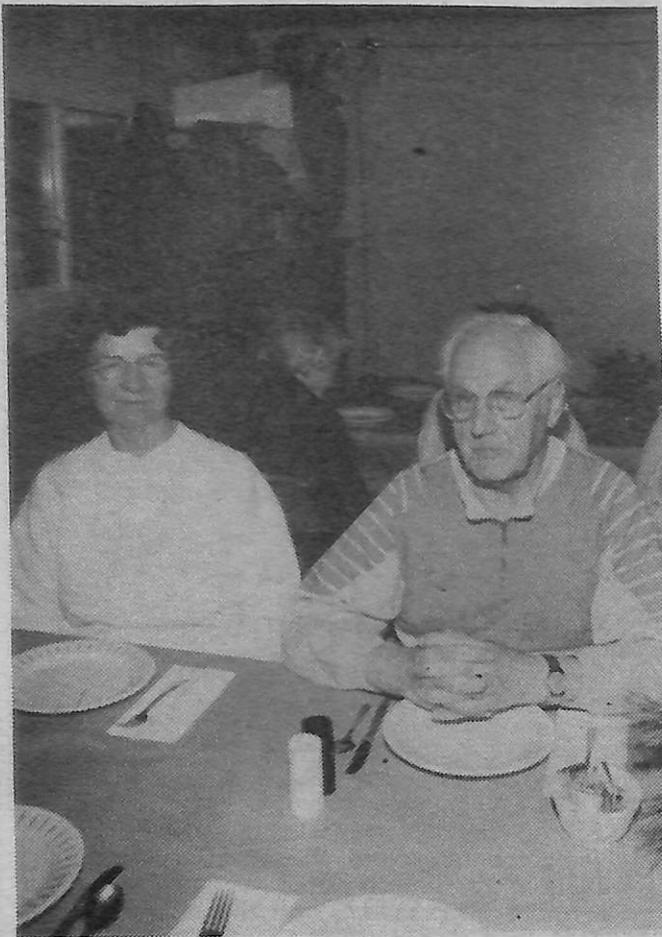
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Church News

Corned Beef Supper At United Methodist Church...



IN LEFT PHOTO: Catherine & Peter Malachowski at the Agawam United Methodist Church's corned beef supper on Saturday, March 28th. **IN CENTER PHOTO:** Some of the young parishioners who attended the supper. **IN RIGHT PHOTO:** Kitchen helpers Chieko Rivers, Karl Bernier, and Earmela & Dominick D'Angelis. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Activities At St. John's Parish

PIUS X AWARD

St. John's salutes Rose Ciborowski, who is our 1998 recipient of the Pius X Award for Religious Educator.

Bishop Dupre will award the Medals for this area on Tuesday, May 26th, at St. Michael's Cathedral at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to the Mass and reception.

We congratulate Rose and salute all of our teachers and helpers who work so hard to help us in our grammar, junior high, and high school programs.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

With springtime comes the annual nomination and election of one-third of the Parish Council (five members for a three-year term).

The Nominating Committee is soliciting names of those who would like to be nominated and those who should be nominated. Will you help?

ST. JOHN'S OVER-60 CLUB

There are still seats available for the Mystic Trip on May 7th. Mystic Seaport and Aquarium, as well as a lobster dinner, are included in the \$51 cost.

If interested, call Barbara, 786-7037, or Lil, 786-9586.

AGAWAM CATHOLIC SINGLES CLUB SCHEDULE

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in joining should call Frank, 789-2764, or Kay B., 786-8442.

2nd Anniversary Dinner: Details available soon. **April 25th:** Wadsworth Museum & Breakfast. Call Denise, 786-7783.

Guest Speaker To Appear At Agawam First Baptist Church On Sunday, April 19th

"Who Is My Family?" will be the topic of guest speaker Steve Bailey at this Sunday's worship service at 9:30 a.m.

Assisting him will be Betty Murphy, who will lead the responsive reading. Greeters for the morning will be Nancy Daniels and Gwen & Jack Magovern.

Children's church will be at 10:00 a.m. There will be coffee and conversation time in Davis Hall following morning worship. Classes for all ages are available until 11:45 a.m. Nursery care is provided.

At 7:00 p.m. this Sunday, we will celebrate Family Night. This annual event will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a covered dish supper, followed by an evening of entertainment by members and friends.

If you want to be a participant, call Steve Bailey, chairman (739-8766). However, an appreciative audience is also needed.

Come and plan for a fun evening with church family and friends.

Coming up this week:

Monday, April 20th: 7:30 p.m., Social Action Committee; 7:30 p.m., Word Search Bible Study.

Tuesday, April 21st: 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It

Aerobics Class; 6:30 p.m., Mr. & Mrs. Club Dinner & Program; 7:00 p.m., Junior Youth Group; 7:00 p.m., Divorce Recovery Meeting.

Wednesday, April 22nd: 7:15 a.m., Mid-Week Prayer Time; 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Trading Post Open.

Thursday, April 23rd: 10:00 a.m., Bell Ringers Rehearsal; 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal.

The Caring Connection announces the return of their annual "Caring and Sharing Adoption Program." This program is an opportunity for people within the church to be "adopted" by each other, giving them time to get to know each other better.

The deadline for signing up for this program is this Sunday, April 19th. Notify any member of the Caring Connection of your wish to be a part of this program, or contact the church office.

On Saturday, April 25th, the American Baptist Women of Massachusetts will present "Practicing Christian Love" at their meeting in Grotonwood. Registration is at 9:30 a.m.

The program runs from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$7.50. For last-minute reservations, contact the church office, 786-7300.

Special Cantata At Agawam Congregational

Cantata entitled "Sound Story" under the direction of Ellen Cogen, Minister of Music.

Join us for this special musical performance.

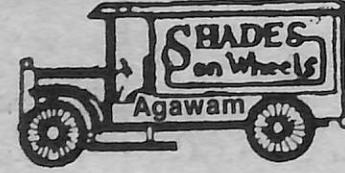
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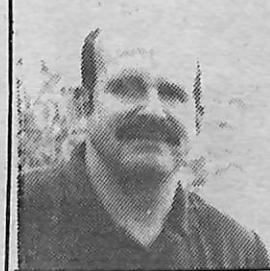
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Reflections...

submitted by
Rev. Peter Monahan
Pastor of the Church
of the Apostles,
Suffield, CT
(860) 668-4444 or
(413) 786-8735

We Can Know For Certain That Jesus Was Raised From The Dead

One of the basic tenets of the Christian faith is that Jesus Christ was physically raised from the dead. Indeed, the Bible says you cannot consider yourself to be a Christian if you do not believe in the literal, physical resurrection of Jesus Christ.

If you confess with your lips that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. The heart is the seat of one's physical, spiritual, and mental life. It is the depth of one's being.

We cannot merely say we believe that Jesus was raised from the dead, in conformity to a creedal statement. Our confession must be a true reflection of our deepest and dearest beliefs.

God does not require us to believe, or to say we believe, in the actual resurrection of Jesus on blind faith. We're not supposed to believe that Jesus was really raised from the dead simply because we want to, or because we hope it is true. We can believe in the actual, literal resurrection of Jesus because it actually occurred.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is critical to our faith because it is one of the factors which distinguishes Jesus from the rest of the human race. This is a matter of great practical importance for each and every person.

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

In other words, Christianity is a farce if Jesus was not really raised from the dead. The validity of

Christianity hangs on this one factor.

Jesus really is the only begotten Son of God, and His resurrection proves this. Because He is the Son of God, we can pray to Him and accept His death on our behalf for our salvation. The same cannot be said of any other person in all of human history.

How can we know for sure that Jesus really was raised from the dead, and that therefore we can trust Him for our salvation? We can rely upon the historical evidence. Indeed, there is more historical evidence to prove that Jesus was actually raised from the dead than there is for most historical events we accept or take for granted.

Among the historical proofs of Jesus' resurrection is the reaction of His closest followers. When some of the women went to tend to Jesus' body, they discovered His tomb was both open and empty. They had not expected to find it this way; the Bible says **they were perplexed about this.**

After the angel told them that Jesus was risen, they ran to tell the others. But **these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.** But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen clothes by themselves, then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

The first of the historical proofs that Jesus Christ was really raised to life comes from the people who fully expected to find Him dead. The women had gone to the tomb to tend His body for burial. They were confused and stunned by what they found instead.

Peter's initial reaction was to disbelieve the women. But he too found the tomb empty, contrary to his expectations. The women and Peter all became convinced that Jesus was raised from the dead.

Having conquered the final frontier, which is death, the risen Christ has the power to transform our lives. We can know for certain that Jesus was actually raised from the dead.

Jesus' resurrection should have a profound impact on each of us. There is more historical evidence to prove that Jesus really was raised from the dead, which will be discussed in forthcoming articles.

Rummage Sale To Take Place At Sacred Heart Church In Feeding Hills

On April 23rd, there will be a Rummage Sale in the Parish Center of Sacred Heart Church. The sale will begin at 9:00 a.m. and run until 2:00 p.m.

The doors will open again at 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. when you can fill a bag (provided by us) for \$2.

There will also be an Attic Treasure Room. The sale is sponsored by members of Sacred Heart Parish.

— Check our classified ads in each edition - AAN!!! —

Catholic Women's Club Slates Giant Tag & Rummage Sale

The Catholic Women's Club of Agawam will sponsor a giant tag and rummage sale in the parking lot of St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, on Saturday, April 25th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

(Members only — please deliver your donations of usable clothes and tag sale items to the Parish Center during the week of April 20th. Thank you.)

Weekly Calendar From Ag. Congregational

This Sunday, April 19th, is the Second Sunday of Easter. The Service of Worship continues at 10:30 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam.

Rev. Fuller's Sermon will be "We Have Seen the Lord," taken from Text: John 20: 19-31. The children (kindergarten through sixth grade) will be downstairs in the Worship Chapel, where they will have Communion served to them by the Board of Deacons.

This Sunday is also the Cantata, "Sound Story," which will be performed by the Adult Choir under the direction of Ellen Cogen, Minister of Music. Join us for this special musical Worship Service.

The Adult Education Class continues will resume this Sunday at 9:00 a.m. under the leadership of Dan Pender, Christian Education/Youth Director.

This week's theme will be "The Resurrection Story." Join us to continue the Easter journey.

The Open Pantry item for this Sunday is canned fruit.

Items collected will be donated to the Agawam/West Springfield Open Pantry.

The April One-Day Vacation Bible Camp, "The Easter Story Lives," is Wednesday, April 22nd, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Children from pre-school through high school are welcome to attend. Registration forms are available in the church office.

For more information, call the church office, 786-7111.

The Ladies Aid Society Annual Spring Festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 25th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Mark your calendars today!

Crafters are wanted to display their wares. Call the church office at 786-7111 for more information.

How about having your car washed as you visit the Spring Festival? Our Junior/Senior High Youth Groups, will hold a Car Wash from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Drop your car off at the side door of the church and pick it up when you come out. Help support our youth raise money for their youth activities!

Roast Beef Dinner Scheduled At Agawam United Methodist

The Agawam United Methodist Church will host a Roast Beef Dinner on Saturday, April 18th at 5:00 p.m.

Donation is \$7, \$6 for seniors, and \$3 for children under 12 years.

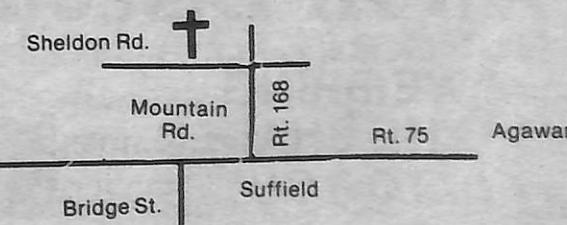
For a reserved seat, call 786-3261 and leave a message.



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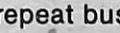
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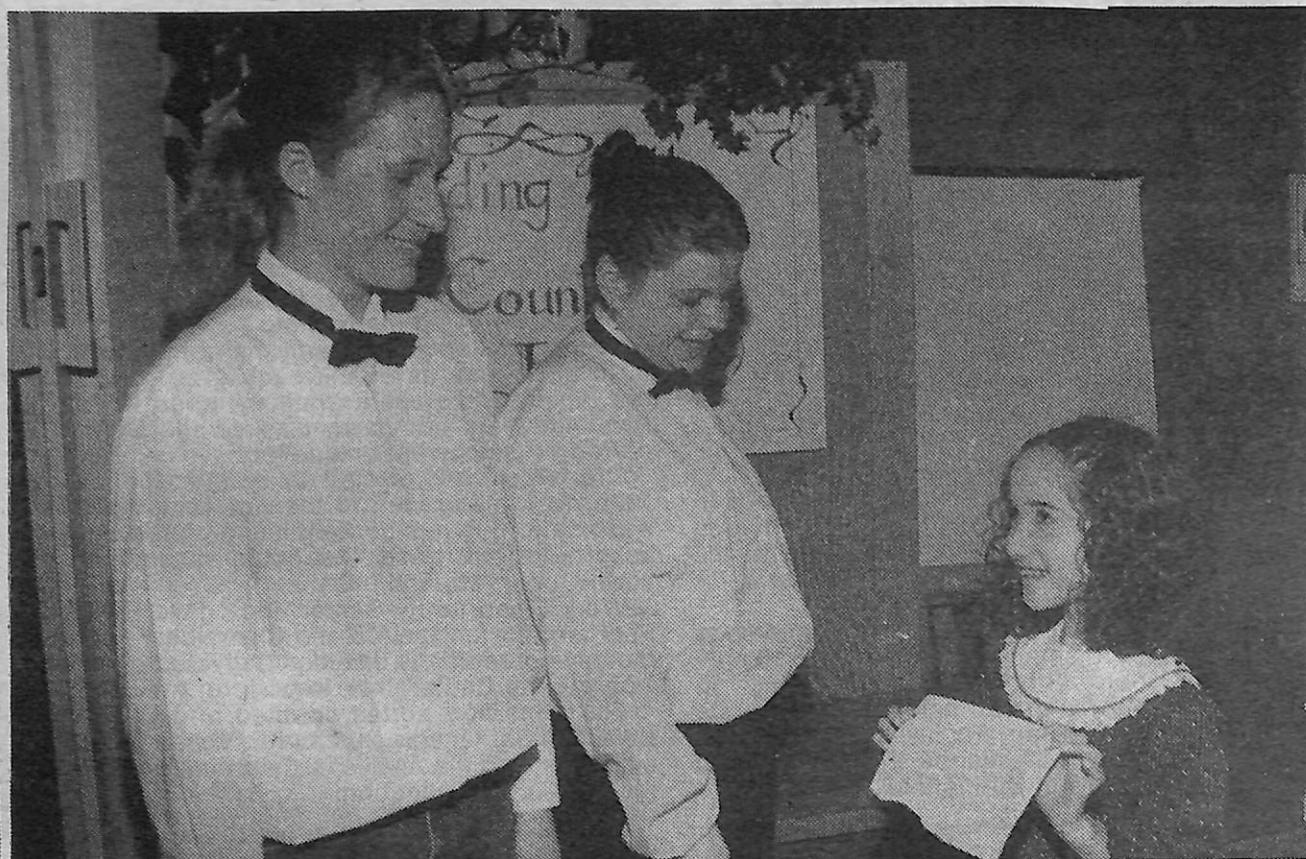
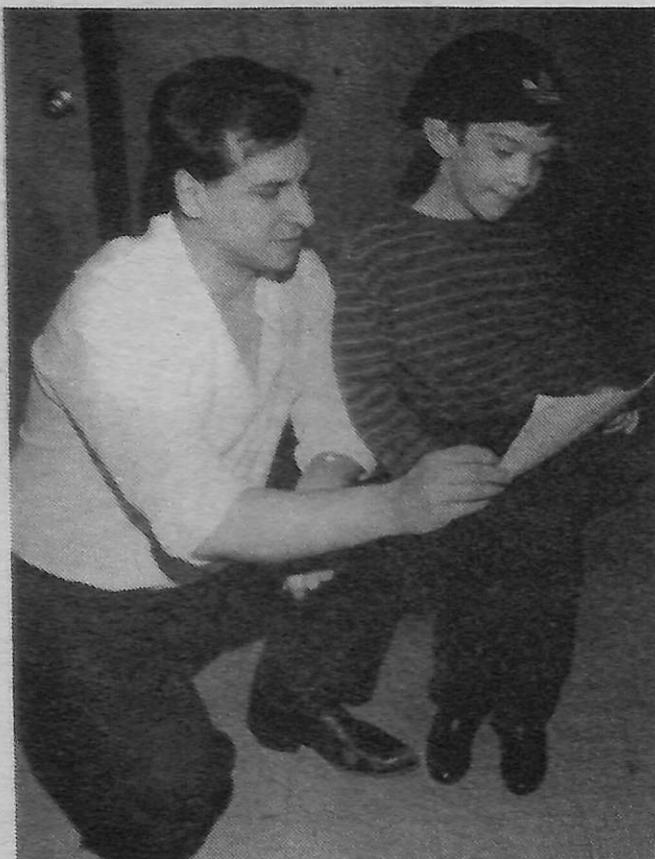
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789-3535



Operation Friendship Sponsors A "Mystery"...



THE FEEDING HILLS CHAPTER of Operation Friendship recently hosted the Drama Studio Ensemble, which presented the mystery "*Dorothy Dinsmore, Gossip Columnist*" for two performances at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church. IN LEFT PHOTO: Bob Kaine, the show's director and narrator, with young actor Andy Dawson. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Operation Friendship members Nicole White and Amanda Rozanski with Rachael Jacobson of the Drama Studio. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Chicken Supper Slated For April 18th At Valley Comm. Church

The "community-famous" chicken suppers at Valley Community Church will be held this month on Saturday, April 18th.

The menu will consist of one-half baked chicken, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, two hot vegetables, tossed salad, olives, pickles, cranberry sauce, rolls with butter, and a beverage. Also included is your choice from a table filled with delectable, enticing desserts.

Continuous servings are available from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children. Reservations are suggested and can be made by calling Shirley at 786-2576 or Jeff at 789-2552.

Valley Community Church is located "high on the hilltop" at 152 South Westfield Street.

* * *

**Please remember
that our deadline
is each Tuesday
at 12:00 noon...**

* * *

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News & Notes From F.H. Congregational

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills. A service of worship begins at 10:00 a.m.

The lectionary readings for April 19th, the second Sunday of Easter, will be Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150, Revelations 1:4-8, and John 20:19-31.

Rev. Donaldson's sermon title is "What Do We Believe?" Children are invited to attend worship with their parents, leaving at the appropriate time for Sunday School.

Nursery care will be provided for the very young.

Don't forget! This Sunday, we will have our monthly collection for the West Springfield/Agawam Open Pantry. Bags of groceries and articles of clean, usable clothing are needed.

Please bring your items to the Open Pantry table in the sanctuary. If you are unable to donate a bag of groceries, envelopes will be available in the sanctuary on the Open Pantry collection table for cash donations.

The Board of Christian Education will sponsor a Tag Sale/Car Wash/Bake Sale here at the church on Saturday, May 2nd, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Donations for the tag sale will be gladly accepted.

Any baked goods donated would also be appreciated. The Sunday School young people would love to wash your car for you. They might even wash some people in the process!

The Wednesday morning Scripture Project Bi-

ble Study group will meet again on April 22nd at 9:30 a.m. The series will continue until May 6th.

Meeting time is flexible; please speak to Rev. Rob if there is a better time for you to meet.

On the calendar:

Thursday, April 16th: Newsletter deadline.

Friday, April 17th: Wedding rehearsal.

Saturday, April 18th: 1:00 p.m., Quilting Social;

5:00 p.m., Parrot/Wade Wedding.

Sunday, April 19th: 10:00 a.m., Open Pantry Sun-

day; 2:00 p.m., Cub Scouts.

Monday, April 20th: 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., Girl

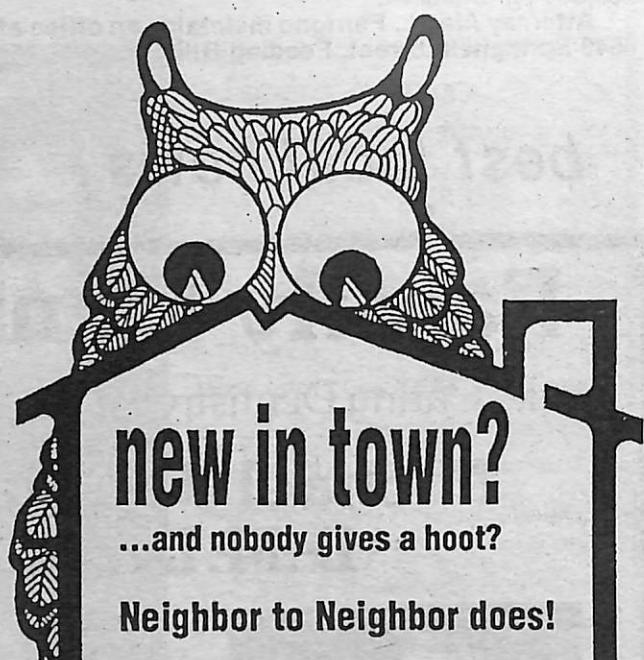
Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Cub Scouts; 7:00 p.m., Trustees.

Tuesday, April 21st: 7:00 p.m., A.A.; 7:30 p.m., Deacons.

Wednesday, April 22nd: 9:30 a.m., Bible Study;

7:00 p.m., Choir.

Thursday, April 23rd: 7:00 p.m., A.A.



new in town?

...and nobody gives a hoot?

Neighbor to Neighbor does!

We're your local welcoming service, and we'd like to help you become acquainted with your new town. We have set aside a useful packet of community information and valuable gifts from local businesses, all free to you.

To arrange for a visit from our Community Representative, give us a call. Welcome to town!



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Spotlight On Business

Work Opportunity Center Helps Riverside Park & Historical Asso.

Work Opportunity Center, Inc., is a private, non-profit corporation that provides work experiences and employment for developmentally disabled individuals while simultaneously helping them become more integrated in the community. The Center provides employment services to 100 developmentally disabled individuals.

The Center operates three programs. They are a Workshop Program, an Enclave Program, and the Supported Employment Program.

In the Workshop Program, the Center brings in light industrial hand assembly projects from area companies into its facility in Agawam and the consumers are paid on a piece rate basis for assembling the work.

In the Enclave Program, consumers are taken to area businesses in small groups of four to 15 consumers per group with a Vocational Trainer. In this program, they are also paid on a piece rate basis. The Center has Enclaves at Standard Uniform in Agawam, Atlantic Fasteners, and Sullivan Paper in West Springfield.

In the Supported Employment Program, individuals are hired by area corporations and the Work Opportunity Center, Inc. Supported Employment staff provide the training.

In the Workshop Program, the consumers perform such jobs as shrink packaging, assembly, packaging, and preparing bulk mailings. Recently, Riverside Park in Agawam asked the Center to perform a somewhat unique job.

Riverside Park wanted to donate the money from its wishing well to the Agawam Historical Association. Riverside Park had 37 large bags of assorted coins, and the coins needed to be sorted, counted, and rolled.

Work Opportunity Center, Inc., gave Riverside Park a quote on the job and Riverside Park hired the developmentally disabled individuals at Work Opportunity Center, Inc., to perform the work.

The coins were sorted, counted, and rolled in no time. The Center was paid for its services by Riverside Park, and the Agawam Historical Association received a nice donation.



Legal Memo

by
Alan J. Ferrigno, Esq.
546 Springfield St., F.H.
(413) 786-9454



Parents' Liability For Acts Of Their Children

Under Massachusetts statutory law, a parent may be held liable for the willful acts committed by an unemancipated child under the age of 18 and over the age of seven.

This rule differs from the old common law rule that held in the absence of an agency relationship, a parent was not vicariously liable for the tort of a child unless the parent directed, encouraged, or ratified the child's conduct.

In enacting Massachusetts General Laws, chapter 231, Section 85G, however, the Legislature changed the common law rule and imposed strict liability on the parents for the intentional acts of his or her child.

Recovery, however, is limited to a maximum of \$5,000 per incident.

Attorney Alan L. Ferrigno maintains an office at 546 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.

best local news...

The PIONEER GROUP To Hold Free Workshop

The offices of **The PIONEER GROUP** is sponsoring a free public service workshop entitled "Buying a Home ... What the Banks Don't Tell You."

It will be held Saturday morning, May 9th, between the hours of 10:00 and 11:45 a.m. at the West Springfield Professional Center, 1111 Elm Street, Suite 21, in West Springfield.

Topics to be discussed include the various government federal loan programs that are currently available to first-time and move-up buyers; understanding points and closing costs, and how to minimize these fees; understanding seller contributions; the difference between a bank and a mortgage company, and which one offers the better value; and much more.

The information contained in this seminar may save today's first-time and move-up buyers thousands of dollars.

Speakers at the workshop will include Donald Thompson, a Principal of **The PIONEER GROUP**, and Raymond Rose, a retired mortgage banker.

The workshop is free of charge and reservations are suggested (their last seminar was filled to capacity). For more information, please listen to the recorded info message at 846-0981, and for reservations, please dial 731-6800.

Those that attend the workshop will receive a free copy of their credit report along with an application for a free mortgage pre-approval.

THE WORK OPPORTUNITY CENTER in Agawam counted rolled coins for Riverside Park and the Agawam Historical Association and Executive Director Robert MacDonald a check from Riverside Park Marketing Director Ron Sevant (center) for the project. Looking on is Shari Blackman, Riverside Park's Public Relations spokesperson. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Richard Heideman Appointed Sales Mgr. For WGGB-TV 40

Richard (Rick) Heideman has been appointed to the position of Local Sales Manager for WGGB-TV, Springfield, MA.

In announcing the appointment, Kevin P. LeRoux, President and General Manager of WGGB-TV, reflected on his previous experience in the broadcasting industry, most recently, as Vice-President and General Manager of WHMP AM/FM Radio in Northampton, MA.

In his new position, which he will assume on May 4th, Heideman will supervise a staff of six account executives in the sales department.

Heideman graduated with honors from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. He currently lives in Westfield with his wife, Susan, and daughter, Dawn.

WGGB-TV is a division of Guy Gannett Communications of Portland, Maine.

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Spotlight On Business - continued...



SUSAN DOMINICK

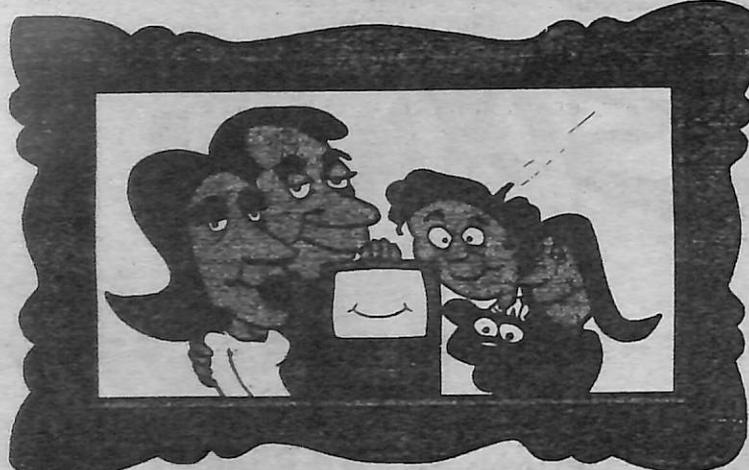
Hampden Savings Hires Susan Dominick As Office Manager

Hampden Savings Bank has announced the hiring and appointment of Susan Dominick as Manager of its Full Service Office (FSO) at 475 Longmeadow Street in Longmeadow.

Ms. Dominick brings 17 years of retail banking experience to her new position and most recently was employed as a team leader for a local investment management firm.

A resident of Monson, she also has served as a member of the Town's Finance Committee and Treasurer and Board Member of the Warren Boy's and Girl's Club.

check our classified



"God's Broken Heart for Broken Homes:"

What Does God Really Say About Divorce?

Agawam Church of the Bible

Meeting Sunday, April 19 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

at the Agawam Junior High School

Picnic and games to follow the service!

For more information, call 789-2904.

Pam Savioli

Landry, Lyons & Whyte Co./Better Homes & Gardens



Inspect Before Buying...

If you're thinking of buying an older home, it may pay to hire a professional home inspector.

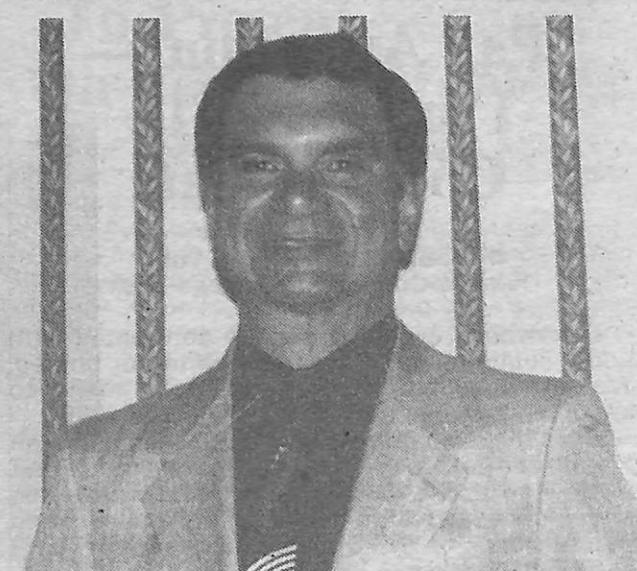
Since many people buy homes based on emotional reactions, an inspector can provide a realistic picture of a home's condition. The inspector can verify the home's condition and point out any problem areas that may need to be fixed.

If possible, consider accompanying the inspector — you may find out details that may not appear on the report and pick up some useful repair tips.

Another advantage of hiring an inspector: it may be easier to negotiate a price on the home if you have a professional opinion of the home's condition.

For more information on buying a home, call Pam Savioli at (413) 748-7565.

Guistimbelli Honored



PETER PAN MOTORCOACH operator Bob Guistimbelli of Agawam has received the 1998 "Mrs. Peter Picknelly, Sr. Award" in recognition of his outstanding accomplishment and performance on behalf of the bus lines.

Real Estate Shopping On The Web!

Need a glossary of real estate firms? Want to shop for houses from the comfort of home? Looking for mortgage information? You can find all of this, and much more, on **The PIONEER Group's** site on the World Wide Web.

Company Principals, Raymond Rose and Donald Thompson, claims that it is one of the easiest web sites to tour in the real estate industry. Last October, Gary Lucia was promoted as its company's Internet Administrator.

"As Exclusive Buyer's Agents, we firmly believe that it is critical to service our clients with the highest levels of professionalism and care. Our web site allows our current clients, and any new clients, to shop for houses at their convenience. Also, we have complete information regarding school systems and town demographics available," Rose stated.

"Not only are we extremely pleased with the way that Gary designed our site, we are very proud of the fact that we just won our fourth national award for our web site's content and design,"

Thompson added.

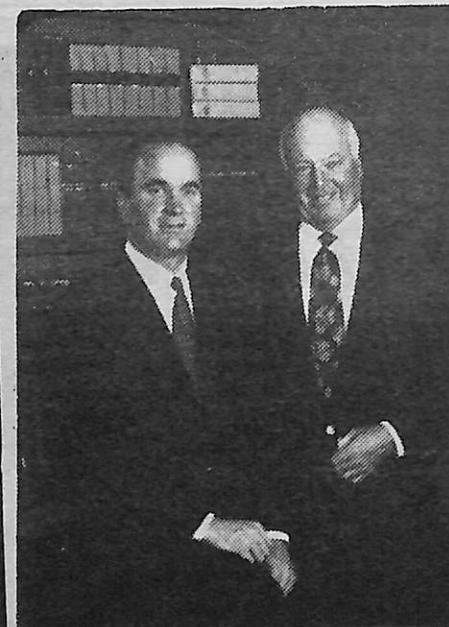
Home buyers will also find complete information regarding the benefits of using an Exclusive Buyer's Agent to purchase their home, mortgage pre-approval guidelines, mortgage workshop updates, and much more.

The web address is www.pioneer-group.com.

The PIONEER Group is the largest real estate firm throughout Western Massachusetts that represents home buyers exclusively. As Buyer's Agents, they morally, legally, and ethically represent home buyers only, and, as opposed to most other real estate firms that represent both buyers and sellers, by representing buyers only, today's home buyer can be assured that there will never be a conflict of interest in their transaction and there are no out-of-pocket fees for the home buyer when they use the services of **The PIONEER Group**.

For more information, please e-mail them by using their web site ... or simply call 731-6800.

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Frank & John O'Brien

Funeral arrangements don't have to be made the day a person dies.

Arranging a funeral at the time of death is emotionally difficult; however, in pre-planning your funeral, you take care of all the important arrangements and decisions today before the need arises. And if you choose to pre-pay, you will alleviate the financial burden on your family.

Since 1885, we have served the community with care and dignity. As part of our continuing effort to help our families plan for, and ultimately deal with, the passing of loved ones, we want to make you familiar with this program. Call us for an appointment to discuss, with no obligation, the details of this beneficial program.

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West Springfield, MA 01089
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For Your Health

Fitness Tip...

Pay Attention — I'm Trying To Communicate

by Carmela A. Krik, R.N.
Fitness Consultant, Fitness First

Everywhere, everyday, we are confronted with good, sound reasons not to listen to our bodies. We have deadlines to meet and appointments to keep. We have been trained well.

Does this sound familiar? "Wait, we'll eat in an hour," or "Eat now, you won't have time to eat later." How about "One more coffee, I'll have this paper done and still get a couple hours sleep before work," or "My shoulder aches today, but I can't not work out."

Although I know it's impossible for us to do as our bodies ask all the time, it would certainly benefit us to listen to what our bodies are telling us at least some of the time. Would there be a weight problem if we only fueled when our bodies asked us to? Would kids smoke if they tried sitting down and paying attention to what it feels like for the smoke to infiltrate the lungs?

Paying attention for the correct message your body is giving you takes time and lots of practice.

During exercise, we need to focus on what our bodies are doing, how we are feeling, how each exercise feels on the muscle, joint, and surrounding areas.

Exercise should never be painful. That dull, tightened soreness after a heavier workout is normal. During resistance training, we cause small micro tears in our muscles. The healing of these tears is how our muscle strengthens and grows.

This is why you never resistance train the same muscle two days in a row. The small burn you feel at the end of one set of an exercise is also okay. A sharp, sudden pain is not okay. A continuous discomfort that is sharp is not okay.

Now it's time to pay attention. Stop your exercise if you feel pain. Rest the injured area until pain is relieved. Ice for a couple days, 20 minutes one to six times a day; after a couple days, switch to heat to encourage blood flow and healing.

Compress the injured area and elevate above the heart to relieve or prevent swelling. Remember, if you are injured, RICE is nice.

Injuries can and do occur. The best way to prevent an injury is to do what feels best. Get a good warm-up, cool down and stretch afterwards. To enjoy a safe, fulfilling workout, practice awareness.

It would also be nice to rest when you're tired and eat when you're hungry. Wouldn't it?

— ADVERTISER NEWS —

Decisions. Decisions. Decisions.

Your loved ones may make more than 120 decisions related to your funeral—most in the first 24 hours after your death. Fortunately, there's a way to avoid adding to their burden of grief. It's called preplanning, and with Curran-Jones & Family Considerations®, it's a simple process you can do today.

To learn about all the facts and benefits of funeral preplanning, call us today. You'll receive a valuable *Family Considerations® Planning Guide*—absolutely FREE and without obligation.

For your **FREE gift and no-obligation consultation, call today.**



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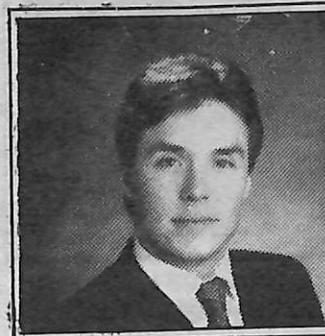
EDWARD F. DAY FUNERAL SERVICES

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*Family
Considerations*

ONS



Your Back And Your Health

by Dr. Joseph S. Schlaffer
Chiropractic Offices
192 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam

Cervicobrachial Syndrome???

Question: I have a habit of sleeping on my stomach with my head turned to one side. I've been told this is improper.

I'm beginning to agree, since I've recently had stiff neck and occasional numbness in my right arm. Anti-inflammatory medication helps, to a degree.

Should I see a chiropractor for this?

Answer: You appear to be describing a cervicobrachial syndrome, meaning the dysfunction and symptoms in your neck and arm are causally related to your neck.

Seeking appropriate chiropractic treatment for this condition is advisable. The underlying cause of the problem is in need of correction. Masking the symptoms of this problem with pain medication will not correct a functional problem in your neck.

The chiropractor is not only interested in relieving your pain. He also wants to correct the underlying cause of the pain and then help to keep it from coming back. Your chiropractor will take the time to examine your spine and study x-rays of the problem area.

Following the analysis of your condition, a program of care and rehabilitation will be recommended. There may be structural weaknesses, degenerative changes, postural considerations, or other reasons which will affect your rate of recovery.

Should your chiropractor feel it necessary to consult with another doctor or refer you, it will be done.

Questions may be addressed to the SCHLAFER CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE at 192 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam, MA — 789-1369.

check
our
classified
pages

Mentally Ill Can Receive Support From Local Alliance

Please join members of the Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Western Massachusetts as they impart their stories to the community in an effort to replace myth and stigma with fact and understanding.

The Alliance is a grassroots organization providing advocacy and support to individuals and families coping with mental illness. Come and learn how people with mental illness and family members meet their daily challenges and life struggles with dignity and hope.

After the presentation there will be free educational brochures on depression, bipolar illness, schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive disorders, anxiety disorders, and related topics will be available.

We will explore the possibility of a future support group being held at the Senior Center in the day/evening and whether or not there is a need for one.

Speakers will include Jane Moser, Alliance President, and Ronnie Darling, Administrative Advocate for the Alliance.

Stroke Survivors Are Invited To Meeting At Mercy Hospital

Stroke survivors, their families, and friends are invited to attend the next meeting of the Stroke Support Group, sponsored by the Weldon Center for Rehabilitation at Mercy Hospital.

The free session will take place April 27th, 7:00 p.m. in the hospital's Deliso Conference Center, 299 Carew St. Meetings are conducted the fourth Monday of each month, offering information and fellowship for persons living with the effects of stroke.

For more information, call group facilitator Millie Braverman, (413) 748-6894.



The Westfield Theatre Group

a department of the Westfield Woman's Club
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THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Music by Richard Rodgers

Lyrics By Oscar Hammerstein II

Book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse

Suggested by "The Story of the Trapp Family Singers"

Directed by Larry Andersen

Assistant Director Kathi Palmer

Musical Director Karen Lampiasi

April 17, 18, 24, 25, May 1, 2, at 8:00 P.M.
Special Matinees April 25 & May 2 at 2:00 P.M.

\$10.00 for students & seniors/\$12.50 for adults
For reservations and information call 572-6838

April 18 Special Benefit performance for the
Westfield Area Mental Health Clinic

For reservations and information regarding this performance call 568-1421

For Your Health - continued...

Food for Thought

by Nancy Dell
Registered Dietician

Do You Need A Multivitamin/Mineral Supplement?

Nutrition experts agree that the Food Guide Pyramid offers a reliable and easy-to-follow plan for healthful eating. Eating the "pyramid way" means choosing the appropriate number of servings and a variety of foods from each of the five Food Guide Pyramid food groups.

This is generally the best way to get all the vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients you need. Challenge yourself with the following guide to rate your eating habits.

On most days do you:

Eat six to 11 servings of grains (breads, cereal, rice, pasta, and other grain foods)? One serving equals one slice of bread, 1/2 cup of rice or pasta, one ounce of cereal, or half a bagel.

Eat at least two servings of fruit? One serving equals one piece of fruit, 1/2 cup of chopped, cooked, or canned fruit, or 1/4 cup of fruit juice.

Eat at least three servings of vegetables each day? One serving equals 1/2 cup of cooked or chopped vegetables, one cup of raw, leafy vegetables, or 1/4 cup of vegetable juice.

Generally eat the same foods every day?

Eat two or more servings of dairy foods such as milk, cheese, and yogurt each day? One serving equals one cup of milk or yogurt, 1 1/2 ounces of natural cheese, or two ounces of processed cheese.

Eat two or three servings of lean meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, eggs, or nuts every day? One serving equals two to three ounces of cooked lean meat, poultry, or fish. One egg, 1/2 cup of cooked beans, or two tablespoons of peanut butter count as one ounce of meat.

Frequently skip meals or miss out on one or more food groups for the entire day?

By making small changes, you can gradually improve your eating pattern. Focus on one food group at a time, and aim to eat the minimum number of servings for that group each day.

And while food is the best way to obtain vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients, you may benefit from a multivitamin/mineral supplement if you are unable to eat from all the food groups.

Whether you are a Food Guide Pyramid expert or need to brush up on your nutrition "know-how," the more you learn about choosing a healthful eating plan, the easier it is to do. By selecting a wide variety of foods from each of the five food groups, you can get all the nutrients your body needs.

However, even people with the best intentions sometimes fall short on their nutrient intake. For some people, a vitamin/mineral supplement offers benefits that are both safe and effective. A vitamin/mineral supplement may help when:

- Your hectic lifestyle frequently keeps you from eating the recommended number of servings from the food guide pyramid;
- You are on a very low-calorie weight loss diet;
- You are elderly and not eating as much as you should;
- You are a strict vegetarian;
- You can't drink milk or eat cheese and yogurt, or
- You are a woman of childbearing age who doesn't get enough folate from fruits, vegetables, beans, and grains.

A registered dietitian can help you evaluate your eating pattern and determine whether a vitamin/mineral supplement is right for you.

Here are two important guidelines to a good supplement:

1. Be sure the supplement is in a gelcap or USP approved. USP ensures the supplement dissolves in time to get absorbed into your body. The letters USP should be on the label.

2. Look for the word "chelate" after minerals (such as iron) on the label. According to VitaSearch, a review of nutrient bio availability, most minerals need to be used by the body. Chelated means they are wrapped with a protein as they are in nature.

For a comparison sheet of how some of the most popular supplements measure up, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Nancy Dell, MS, RD, 850 Springfield Street, Suite 4, Feeding Hills, MA 01030, or leave your name and address when you call (413) 786-2957.

Best local news...



Chiropractic Care
by
Dr. Tami Nelson
Chiropractic Physician
Hampden County Chiropractic
850 Springfield St.
Feeding Hills
786-4820

The Benefits Of Breastfeeding...

Many hours of my day are spent breastfeeding my 2 1/2 month-old son, Christopher. There are some days (and nights!!) that you say to yourself, "Is this really worth it?" This takes an incredible amount of time and energy. I want my life back!!

I was just starting to think maybe formula wasn't that bad when I came across an article in my chiropractic research material. A study of 1,000 New Zealand children examined the association between breastfeeding and childhood cognitive ability and academic achievement. The practices of the breastfeeding mothers were assessed from the birth of the children to the first year.

From ages eight to 18, the children were given a range of cognitive and academic tests. The study maintained that an increased duration of breastfeeding was associated with increased IQ, increased performance on standardized tests, higher teacher ratings of classroom performance, and better high school performance.

Another study found that babies who are exclusively breastfed for at least the first 15 weeks of life have less risk of childhood respiratory illness. The study also determined that children tended to have lower blood pressure and less body fat than those started on solid food before four months of age.

The findings suggest a possible link between adolescent and adult disease and nutritional factors in the womb and during infancy. Breastfeeding and delaying the introduction of solids until after 15 weeks may have a beneficial effect on childhood health and subsequent disease.

Well, reading these studies certainly encouraged me to continue breastfeeding as long as possible to help Christopher be as healthy and intelligent as possible!

Dr. Nelson maintains an office at Hampden County Chiropractic, 850 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, 786-4820.

check our classifieds

Providence Hospital To Present Seminar On Teenage Problems

Being a teenager has never been more complicated or more difficult, and even the "best" kids can be tempted into trouble.

On Thursday, April 23rd, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Providence Hospital auditorium, Sisters of Providence Behavioral HealthCare (SPBHC) will present "How To Tell If Your 'Normal' Teenager Is Normal," a free seminar to help parents keep their kids healthy and safe, and learn what to do if something is wrong.

The workshop will feature George Ross, Ph.D., a licensed psychologist and certified chemical dependency expert, and an experienced adolescent specialist. He is the founding editor of three nationally-recognized substance abuse programs for teenagers and was invited to participate in the White House Conference for a Drug-Free America.

While much of his research and experience has been with chemically-dependent youth and their families, Ross will discuss a broad range of issues and behaviors that affect teenagers today. His approach is proactive and he focuses on the health and safety of children, along with identifying "red flags" and taking action to help teens in trouble.

Registration is not required. For more information, call (413) 493-2778.

**NO ONE covers all
the hometown news
like us - AAN!!!**

Electrology Associates Of Hampden County

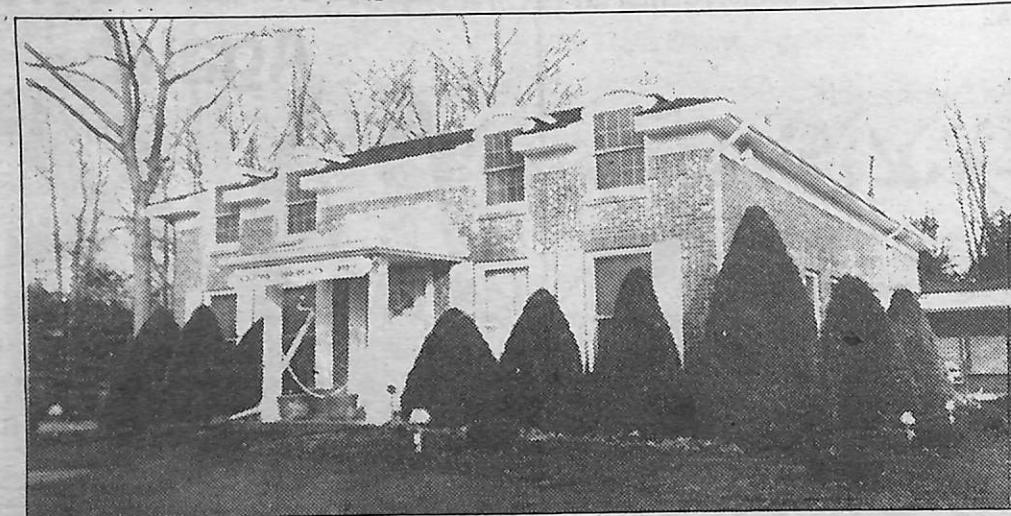
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Agawam

For An Appointment—Call 789-1369 Or 789-1073

Serving The Agawam Area For 15 Years

For Your Health - continued...

Pulmonary Support Group Sets Meeting For Wed., April 22nd

Mercy Hospital's Pulmonary Support Group will meet Wednesday, April 22nd, 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the hospital's Deliso Conference Center, 299 Carew St.

The free group is co-sponsored by the Lung Association, and is designed for those who feel physically or emotionally limited by breathing problems such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, or emphysema.

Meetings offer individuals, their families, and friends the opportunity to share problems and solutions. An informal social period with refreshments is also part of each session.

For more information, call Cardiopulmonary/Neurology Services at Mercy Hospital, (413) 748-9610.

CPR Classes To Be Offered By Boy Scout Troop 207

Boy Scout Troop 207, sponsored by the West Springfield American Legion Post 207, will be offering American Heart Association CPR classes on Saturday, April 18th.

From 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., there will be a class for full CPR certification, and from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., a recertification class will be held (for AHA only; must include copy of current card).

The cost is \$40 per class, and make checks payable to "Boy Scout Troop 207." Please mail your check with your name, address, and home phone number to the West Springfield American Legion Post 207, 83 Park Street, West Springfield, MA 01089.

Mobile Hearing Center Coming To Senior Ctr. On Monday, April 27th

Mercy Hospital's Weldon Mobile Hearing Center will conduct a free hearing screening and hearing aid checks at the Agawam Senior Center on April 27th at 9:00 a.m.

In addition, full diagnostic hearing tests, evaluations, fittings, sales and service of hearing aids, and assistive-listening devices, can be scheduled on a fee-for-service basis.

The hearing van's audiology equipment is operated by nationally certified audiologists from the Weldon Hearing Center at Mercy Hospital.

For a reservation, call the Senior Center at 786-0400, ext. 242.

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Gail Sheehy

Gail Sheehy challenges our thinking with frank and humorous insights about how we live our "second adulthood."

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May 21

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\$50 per person
\$45 YWCA members

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Support Groups & Many Programs Available At Noble Hospital

Alcoholics Anonymous: Sunday evenings, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital, 115 West Silver Street, Westfield.

Free of charge. All are welcome.

Stroke Support Group: Wednesday, April 29th, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. In the Bronson Rehabilitation Center Dining Room at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals recovering from a stroke and their support persons. The topic at this meeting will be "Stroke in different areas of the brain; right vs. left."

Crohn's and Colitis: Tuesday, April 21st, 7:00 p.m. In Conference Room A.

Free of charge and open to all suffering from Crohn's or Colitis and their support persons. Heidi Domingues Kolek, M.D., will entertain questions and answers for the IBD patient.

Diabetes Support Group: Tuesday, April 28th, 1:00 p.m. In Conference Room A.

Free of charge and open to all suffering from diabetes and their support persons. Linda Lissack, Paralegal Advocate at Western Mass. Legal Services, will speak about changes in Medicare at this meeting.

COURSES/PROGRAMS:

Cosmetic/Plastic Surgery: Tuesday, April 21st, and Tuesday, May 19th, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. At Noble Hospital.

Gary E. Russolillo, M.D., will present a lecture about Body Contouring Surgeries, Lip Enhancements, Facial Surgeries and Skin Care Procedures, and a demonstration of a live chemical peel.

The presentation will be followed by a complimentary personal consultation. Pre-registration is required. For free registration, call Health Beat at (413) 568-2328.

Free Athletic Injury Clinic: 1988 Spring Schedule - April 23rd, May 7th, May 21st. At Noble Hospital's Sports & Rehabilitation Center, 76 Main Street, Westfield.

This clinic is held on the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of every month from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

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Athletic injuries are evaluated by a certified athletic trainer and, based upon the evaluation, remedial exercises or physician referral may be recommended.

For an appointment, call 562-3522.

14th Annual Run For A Noble Cause (5-K Road Race and Kid's Race): Saturday, April 25th, 8:30 a.m. Sponsored by Noble Hospital.

Registration is limited to 350. The registration fee is \$8 in advance, and \$10 on the day of the race. The Kid's Race is free.

Awards will be given for all divisions. Call Noble Hospital's Health Beat, (413) 568-2328, for a registration form or more information.

Children's Olympics: Saturday, May 2nd, 8:30 a.m. At Billy Bullens Field. Sponsored by Noble Hospital and the YMCA of Greater Springfield.

Registration is limited to 250. The registration fee is \$6 for one child, \$8 for two children, \$10 for three children, and \$12 for four or more children in the same family.

Children five through 12 years of age will compete in "Olympic Events," which include hurdles, softball throw, 50-yard dash, sack race, and standing broad jump. Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers (boys and girls) in each age division.

Pre-registration is required prior to April 22nd. Call Noble Hospital's Health Beat, (413) 568-2328, for a registration form or more information.

Bicycle Safety Rodeo: Saturday, May 9th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. At Noble Hospital's West Silver Street Parking Lot. Sponsored by Noble Hospital, Westfield Police Department, Community Police Unit, Westfield Kiwanis Club.

Featuring: Free Bicycle Raffle, Obstacle Course, Bicycle Inspections, Certificate of Completion, BMX Demonstrations, Police and Fire Department EMT Bicycle Patrols, and free hot dog and drink for all participants.

Registration is free and open to children 16 and under. For more information, call 562-4597 or Noble Hospital's Health Beat at (413) 568-2328.

Best local news!!!

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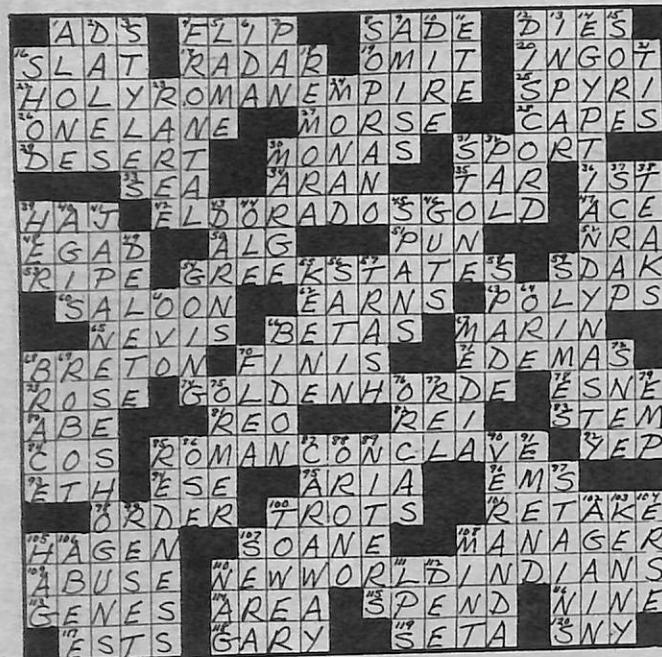
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 19 "Emperor"
 22 Bikini top
 23 Mine finds
 24 Plains Indian
 25 Implore
 26 Stag party attendees
 27 Dodges
 29 Laze around
 32 Pindaric output
 33 Lawyer (abbr.)
 36 "Don Giovanni"
 40 Luminary
 41 Centerpiece often
 42 Sacred Egyptian bull
 43 Strawberry once
 45 Frontiersman Car-
 son
 47 Blackbird
 48 Funnyman Johnson
 49 "From — to riches"
 50 Prefix for gram or
 center
 51 Pose
 52 Merry month in
 France
 53 Information infor-
 mally
 54 Any moment
 55 Sonar return
 57 "Revolutionary"
 60 "— -Na-Na"
 61 Hospital hot spots
 62 Matched pairs
 63 Haggle in a way
 67 Strike
 69 Motorist's org.
 72 "Give the — to"
 (fire)
 73 Chanel
 74 Fawn's mother
 77 "En Saga and Fin-
 landia"
 81 In a snit
 82 Swain
 83 Singletons
 84 Famous fur trader
 85 Equals
 86 Funeral fire
DOWN
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Last Week's Solution...

- 2 Lulu
 3 Thinktank product
 4 Court divider
 5 Put in a warehouse
 6 Refuge
 7 Compass headings
 8 Actress Blyth
 9 Get better
 10 Gem surface
 11 "We — are amused"
 12 Yugoslavian
 13 Head (Fr.)
 14 Marshland
 17 One way to learn
 (with by)
 20 Aaron specialty
 21 Neither partner
 27 Summer fruit coo-
 lers
 28 Used a seat
 29 Fancy marbles
 30 "Wicked One"
 31 Buddy
 32 Mayberry boy
 34 Date
 35 Camera stands
 36 Desirable degrees
 37 Scarlett's plantation
 38 Pertaining to the eye
 39 Fine violin
 40 Streets (abbr.)
 44 Actor Richard
 46 Fork part
 48 I love (Lat.)
 49 Chatters (mod style)
 53 Small rowboat
 54 Female saint
 56 General Arnold
 58 Becomes warm
 59 Impede in law
 64 More capable
 65 King (Fr.)
 66 Costello and Rawls
 67 Between love and
 obey
 68 Champagne buckets
 69 East of the Urals
 70 Tunes
 71 "Blind as — —"
 73 Rene
 74 Refute
 75 Hebrew bushel
 76 Existence (Lat.)
 78 Ike's WWII com-
 mand
 79 Ascot
 80 Caveman Alley

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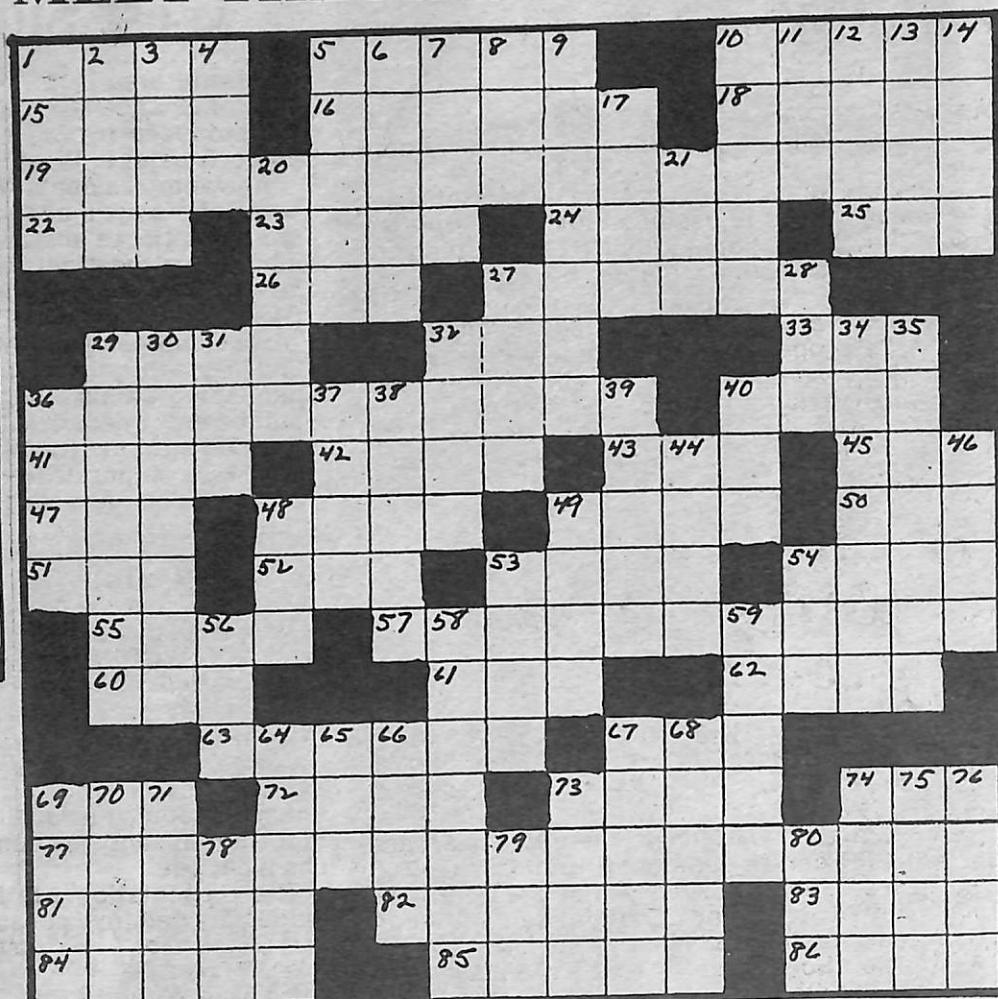
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MEET THE MASTER — by Dick Mastroianni

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**West Side Coin Club
To Hold Coin Show**

The West Springfield Coin Club will hold its semi-annual Coin Show at the Dante Club on Baldwin Street, West Springfield from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 19th.

Coin dealers will be exhibiting as well as buying and selling coins and giving free appraisals. Admission is free.

The Dante Club is located across from the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition on Memorial Avenue.

For further information, contact Peter Setian at 596-9871.

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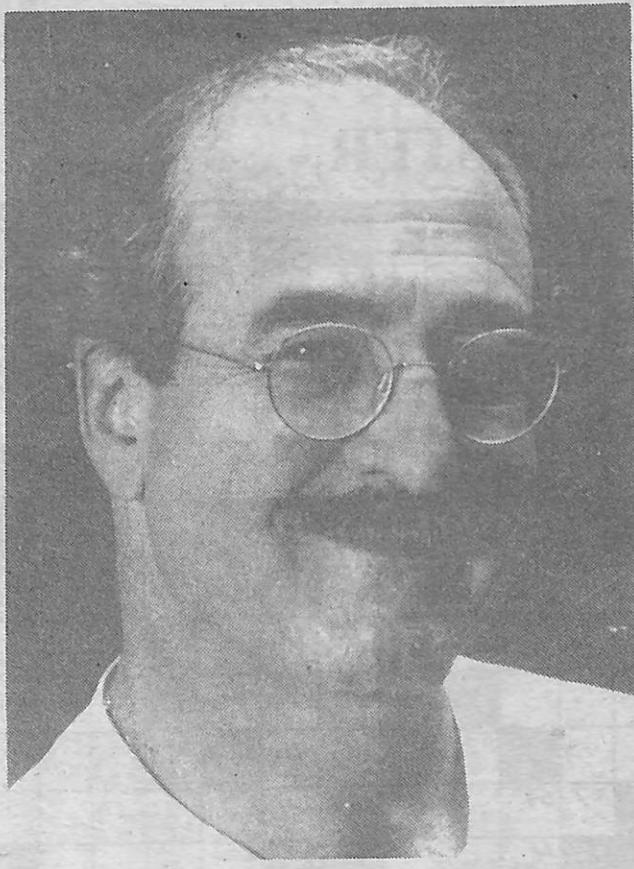
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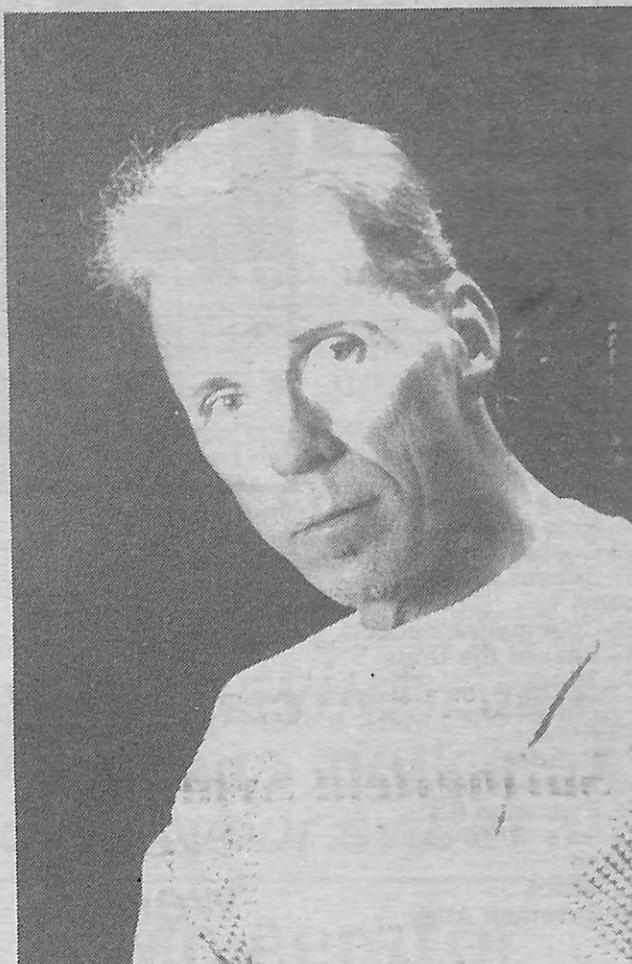
JUDY BRINN

Agawam Residents To Perform With West Side Theatre

Several area performers have joined the large cast of *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*, currently being produced by The Theater Project at the Majestic Theater in West Springfield.

Agawam residents Judy Brinn, Howard Hall, and Bob Kay will be featured in the rock and roll bio-play about the pioneering 1950's rocker who died in a plane crash in 1959. Brinn and Hall will be vocalists, and Kay will appear as DJ Hipockets Duncan.

Buddy will run at the Majestic Theater from April 2nd-May 9th. Tickets range from \$12 to \$19.50, depending on time of performance, and can be purchased by calling the box office at (413) 747-7797. Box office hours are Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 2:00-5:00 p.m.; and Wednesday, 4:00-8:00 p.m.



HOWARD HALL

You turn our pages for all the local news...

Happy 5th
Birthday,
Julia



Love,
Nicholas & Antonio

STAGE III To Present "The Fantasticks" At The Red Door Theatre

STAGE III will present the longest-running musical, "The Fantasticks" by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt, on May 1st, 2nd, 8th, and 9th at 7:30 p.m., along with two special matinee performances on May 3rd and 10th at 2:00 p.m.

The performances will be at The Red Door Theatre, 152 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. Tickets are \$7 for adults, and \$5 for seniors and children 12 and under.

"The Fantasticks" is the story of a boy (Steve Sands) and a girl (Marcy Secora) who grow up separated by a wall (mime-played by Morgan Allen) their feuding mothers (Marilene Allen and Margie Secora) have built to keep them apart. Naturally, it makes them fall wildly in love with each other.

Once they discover their mothers actually planned an abduction to get them together — carried out very dramatically by El Gallo (Lyle Pearson) and his actor accomplices (Dana Ring and Scott Belisle) — their romance suffers a series of whimsical and melodramatic developments.

In the end, as the lovers mature, love conquers all. Audiences will recognize such familiar songs as "Try To Remember" and "Soon It's Gonna Rain."

"The Fantasticks" will be presented in the round and seating is cabaret style at tables. Reservations are a must, as Red Door Theatre productions usually sell out.

STAGE Children's Theatre To Present Japanese Folktale

"The Peach Boy," one of the most beloved of all Japanese folktales, will be presented by STAGE Children's Theatre on April 24th and 25th at 7:30 p.m., and April 25th and 26th at 2:00 p.m. at The Red Door Theatre, 152 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA.

Participating in the cast will be 26 Massachusetts young people who will spend their school vacation building sets, making posters, constructing, costumes, and immersing themselves in activities designed to introduce them to Japanese culture as well as rehearsing for their roles.

"The Peach Boy" tells the story of a young prince whose life is threatened by his evil uncle. His mother, wanting to protect him, hides him in a peach and floats him down a river. He is found by a childless couple who raise him as their own.

When he reaches adulthood, he sets out to reclaim his royal title. His journey takes him on many exciting adventures.

Tickets are \$5, and seats are reserved. For reservations, call (413) 789-2026.



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Education

Computer Whizzes At Agawam High Place 1st At WSC

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

After taking top honors in a local computer programming contest, the members of Agawam High School's winning team are working on their strategy to win a regional competition later this spring.

According to seniors Daryl St. Laurent and Paul Netopski, the team is learning another computer language, C, in order to be sure they don't get bogged down by some of the delays they had to overcome at last month's 13th Annual Winter Invitational High School Programming Contest at Westfield State College when they compete at the Northeast Championships in May at Western New England College.

"We were supposed to be able to solve all the programming problems using any computer language. But, there was a problem with the compiler and we couldn't do all the problems in BASIC, so we tried PASCAL," Daryl explained.

"If the computer system at WNEC is set up the same way, we would run into the same problem, so we're learning C as a precaution," Paul continued.

Both Programmers Are Confident...

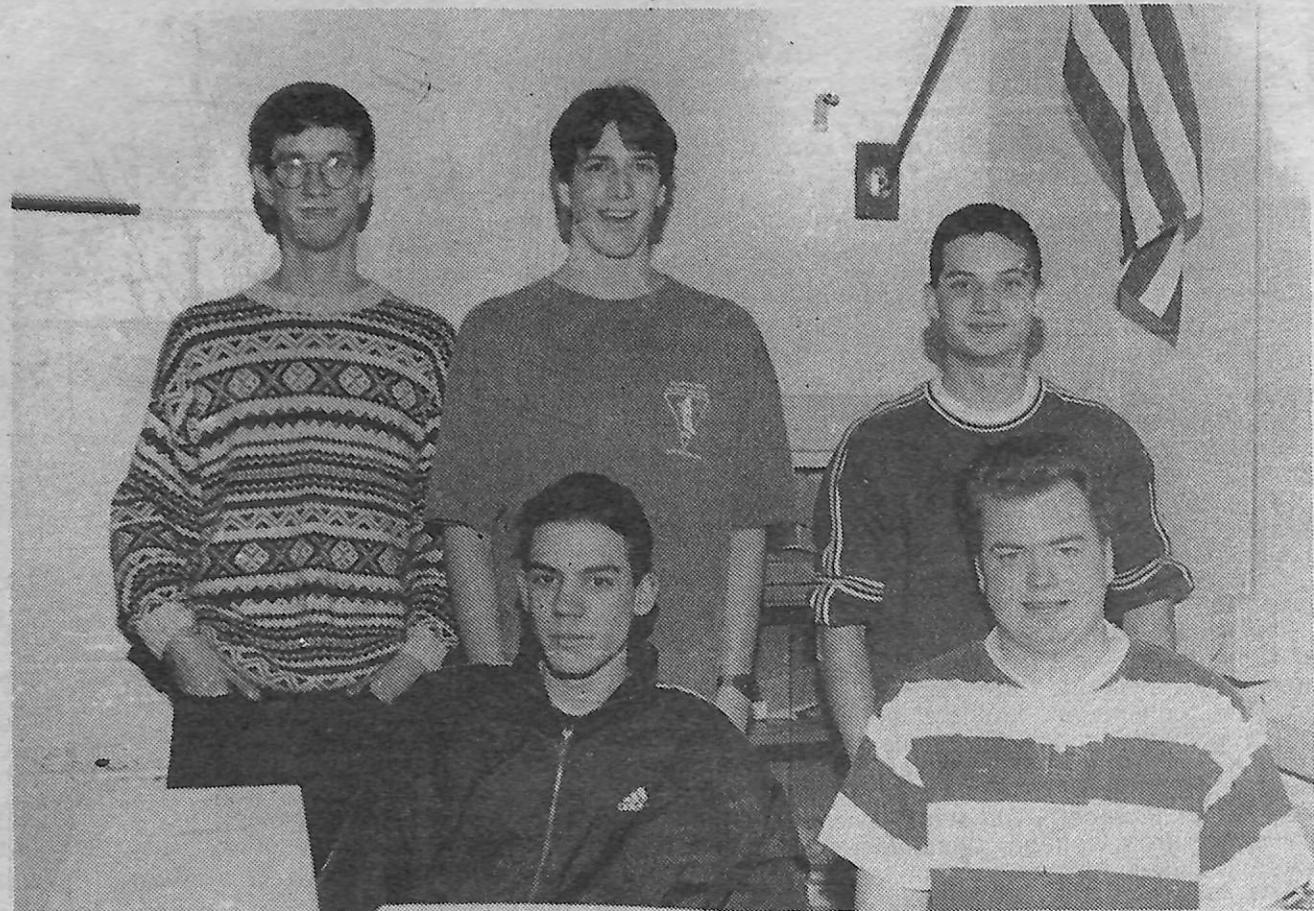
Both programmers have used the language in the past and they're confident that they will have enough time to refresh their memories in time to take on schools from across New England and New York at the WNEC competition.

AHS computer club advisor Ed McCaffrey said each four-member team at the competition works with one computer to write the software to solve as many problems as they can within the 3½ hours of the contest.

"At the Westfield State College competition, our team finished the most programs in the least amount of time to win first place," McCaffrey said. "The students had to solve problems of increasing difficulty, like writing spreadsheet software and writing a program to keep track of marathon racers' times."

For the students competing, the contest is both fun and frustrating. They enjoy working together to solve a problem, but waiting for the judging can take some time and cause some tense moments.

"It's a little tense because it takes about a half



COMPUTER WHIZ KIDS from Agawam High School placed first at a recent high school competition sponsored at Westfield State College - Brian Rondeau, Daryl St. Laurent, Jason Gagne, Paul Netopski, and Matt Brady. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

hour for the programs to be judged," Daryl said. "We had three out of our four accepted by the time the competition ended, but we knew we needed the fourth one to win."

Paul, who took one computer programming class as a sophomore and continued to learn computer languages on his own, plans to enter the Navy for a six-year enlistment. "They'll give me schooling while I'm in the service, and they'll

pay for my college education after I leave," Paul said.

Daryl has been writing computer programs at home for the last 12 years and has never taken a programming class. Still unsure about whether he'll be attending MIT or Harvard University, Daryl is sure he will be studying engineering and computer technology.

Springfield Symphony Going To Clark School

Fourth-grade students at Agawam's Clark Elementary School will be visited in their classrooms by the SSO's Brass Quintet for a series of intimate performances and discussions.

The students are taking part in the SSO's acclaimed MUSIC MATTERS program which also includes *KidVids Part 2*, the SSO's next Youth Concert on April 29th.

MUSIC MATTERS in Agawam's public schools is underwritten by a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council, with additional support from BankBoston and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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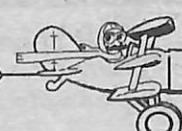
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Guidance Column...

by Paul C. Cavallo
Deputy Principal

Agawam High School third term report cards will be issued on Friday, April 17th.

College Acceptances: Congratulations!
Toni Loguidice: University of Massachusetts
Jessica DeGray: Boston University
Jennifer Fleming: Springfield Technical Community College, Holyoke Community College
Erin Ottomaniello: St. Lawrence University
Heather Green: University of Rhode Island, University of Massachusetts
Elisabeth Shea: Boston University
Darrell Malachowski: American International College
Kate Day: Culinary Institute of America.

Military: Congratulations!

Chris Gaffney: U.S. Coast Guard

Financial Aid: See your counselor for more information or an application.

The Horace Smith Fund: This loan fund is open to students who plan to attend college on a full-time basis and still have financial need after receiving the college's financial aid package.

If repayment is made within one year after the student completes his/her formal education, no interest is charged. The loan will become due and the interest (8 percent) will accrue one year after graduation from college. Deadline for students entering college for the first time is July 1, 1998.

The Joseph Simon Scholarship: Offered to a graduating senior by the Greater Springfield Chapter of Parents, Family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Deadline: April 24, 1998.

Elementary Curriculum Night Scheduled For Wednesday, April 29th

On Wednesday, April 29th, the Agawam Public Schools will conduct an "Elementary Curriculum Night" for parents of students in grades PreK-6 at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria at Robinson Park School.

Mary Czajkowski, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, explains that elementary teachers have worked diligently this year to align the new curriculum with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. She knows many parents, who have heard about these changes, have questions and concerns as to how they will affect their children's education.

Ms. Czajkowski says that the informational program not only will provide parents with an opportunity to receive answers to their questions and concerns, but also will showcase the many exciting and innovative things that are taking place in Agawam's schools as the new elementary curriculum is implemented.

In addition to viewing displays of student work from each grade level across the PreK-6 curriculum, parents will be able to meet the elementary specialists who were influential in selecting textbooks and materials that correlate with the new curricula. They also will learn more about the MCAS assessment tests that will be administered to fourth graders beginning the first week in May.

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Perfect Attendance For Middle School Class



STUDENTS WHO HAD PERFECT ATTENDANCE for the "Keep That Baby Moving" Program at the Middle School included Chris Berube, Marianne Carter, Sara Duquette, Michael Gaynor, Jaclyn Geaghan, Meredith Golbach, Katie Gorman, Trevor Gregor, Elizabeth Harnois, Lindsay Harnois, Jennifer Housand, Ishma Harris, Jill Joyce, Michael Knowlton, Sarah Knowlton, Alicia Linder, Russell Linder, Cali Longtin, Heather Mallory, Erin Marsh, Joey Marsh, Ryan McLane, Jaclyn O'Neill, Amy Osgood, Kirsten Patrick, Christina Reed, Sara Savard, Noelle Serafino, Brandon Tassone, Drew Von Maluski, and Devia Williams. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Jr. High PTO News

Agawam Junior High School PTO Vice-President Sue Hamlett convened the March meeting at 7:35 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

Minutes of the February meeting were reviewed and approved with one change. The \$400 request made by the Art Department for the master potter was corrected to \$300 as previously approved earlier this fall.

Sue reported that the School Council had prepared a final draft of the Parent Feedback Card to be voted on at the April School Council meeting. Several modifications to the format were made in this final draft and included (a) the return address listing Mr. Littlefield rather than School Improvement Council, (b) eliminated all column heading except for the excellent column, and (c) deleted the question, *What did you like least?* and substituted, *What other programs or activities would you like to see?*

Mr. Littlefield indicated that he intended to use the feedback cards beginning next fall for all administrative events. Teachers will be given the option to use them on a voluntary basis.

The student store which was started this past term returned the \$250 start-up funds to the PTO. It was noted that the store is currently making a profit.

Motions were made, seconded, and passed to approve the following funding requests:

- Payment to the student newspaper advisors;
- Purchase of \$40 gift certificates at Barnes & Noble for the winners of the boat race;
- \$747.31 for purchase of books by the librarian that would enhance the curriculum and encourage students to read; and

• Up to \$100 each to five full-time teachers who will be attending the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference. Funds will allow each teacher to purchase items at the Conference that would be useful in the classroom.

It was announced that a satellite dish has been installed at the High School and that School Councils and PTOs will be invited to the next Satellite Teleconference.

Teacher Appreciation Week will be held the week of May 3rd. A sign-up sheet was circulated at the meeting to help plan for the week's activities. All staff members at the school will be invited to participate.

The 8th Grade Celebration will be the focus of the next meeting which will be held on Monday, April 27th at 7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. All parents/teachers who would like to work on this event are encouraged to attend the meeting.

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon...

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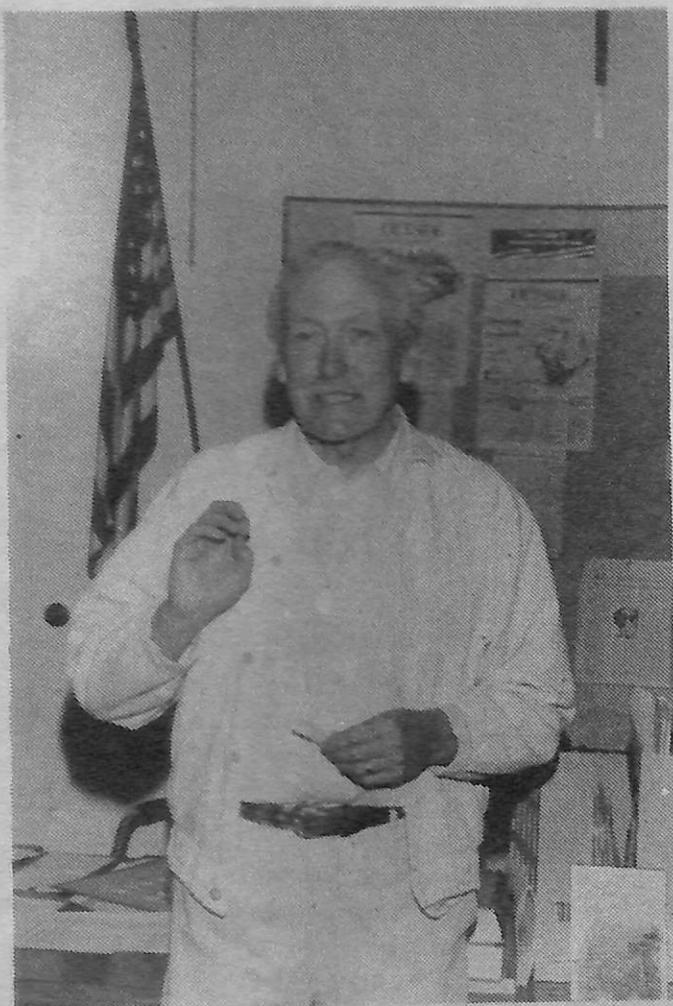
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Dowling At Jr. High



NATIONALLY-KNOWN writer and playwright Vincent Dowling was a guest speaker at the Junior High School recently.

Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

STCC To Hold Open House For New Students

Springfield Technical Community College will hold an Open House for prospective students on the morning of Wednesday, April 22nd.

The general public is invited to attend the event, which will feature a tour of the campus and information on many academic programs, as well as an opportunity to talk with staff from admissions, financial aid, and other student services offices.

The Open House will begin at 8:30 with coffee near the theater on the first floor of Scibelli Hall. Guests to the campus will be welcomed at 9:00 a.m. At 9:30, a mini-fair of informational displays with Student Services support staff will begin, continuing throughout the morning. Small group tours of the 35-acre campus will be available at 9:30 and again at 10:30; the program will end at 12:30.

Tours will be tailored to fit the interests of participants, with routes planned to visit specific academic departments among STCC's 46 associate degree programs according to students' interests.

Faculty from many associate degree and certificate programs will be available in their departmental areas to discuss academic requirements, curriculum, and career opportunities with students and parents.

Staff in the mini-fair will represent the offices of admissions, financial aid, student activities, athletics, disability services, counseling center, women's center, and career services offices.

For more information on the Open House, call the day division Admissions Office at 781-7822, ext. 3855.

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D.A.R.E. Students At Middle School



IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL D.A.R.E. DAY, students at the Middle School wore their D.A.R.E. T-shirts on that day. Members of the Agawam Police Department that stopped by included Chief Robert Campbell, Lieutenant William Sliech, and D.A.R.E. Officer Donald Gallerani. Pictured in photo, back row, from left - Chief Campbell, Officer Gallerani, Middle School teacher Louis Spiro, D.A.R.E. Officer Karen Langevin, and Lt. Sliech. Front row - Zachary LaPPone, Nicholas Guran, David Zaffetti, Brittany Devoe, Sarah Clark, and Christina Reed. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Town Students On Honors List At St. Thomas

Sr. Lillian Reilly, Principal of St. Thomas the Apostle School, 75 Pine Street, West Springfield, has announced that the following students from the Agawam/Feeding Hills area have attained the third quarter honor roll:

FIRST HONORS

Grade 7 - Paul Lagasse.

Grade 5 - Jeffrey Lagasse and Timothy Welch.

SECOND HONORS

Grade 7 - Timothy Welch.

Grade 5 - Jessica Pokora.

THIRD HONORS

Grade 7 - Laura Bovat and Mary Beth Jamroz.

Grade 6 - Michael Audette, Katherine Forbes,

Elizabeth Leon, and Ashley Velosky.

Grade 5 - Danielle Poggi and Adam Rhodes.

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Webelo Scouts 85 Visit High-Tech Firm In South Windsor

On Friday, April 3rd, the first-year Webelos of Cub Scout Pack 85 visited Convergent Energy in South Windsor, Connecticut. Convergent Energy manufactures high-powered lasers used for welding and cutting operations. The lasers weigh several tons.

As part of their engineering pin, the boys learned what is involved in engineering and building lasers of this type. With a laser set for 11,000 watts, the boys watched the light beam weld metal and burn deep into plexiglass within a second.

Along with studying lasers and watching one operate, the Webelos toured the company, saw the many things that were going on there, and examined production samples.

While having a great time, the boys got a better appreciation of what engineers do in designing and building lasers and a respect for their awesome power.

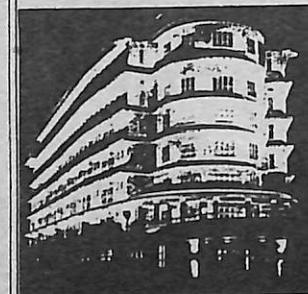
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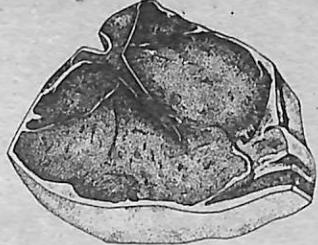
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Carnival Held At Robinson Park School



ROBINSON PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL held a family carnival on the evening of Friday, April 3rd. IN PHOTO LEFT (above), Brandon Serafino and Philip Mokrzycki go fishin'; IN PHOTO LEFT (below), Christine McGavin and Kristen McCaslin enjoy face-painting; IN PHOTO ABOVE, Joey Milillo stands under the huge mural in the lobby. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

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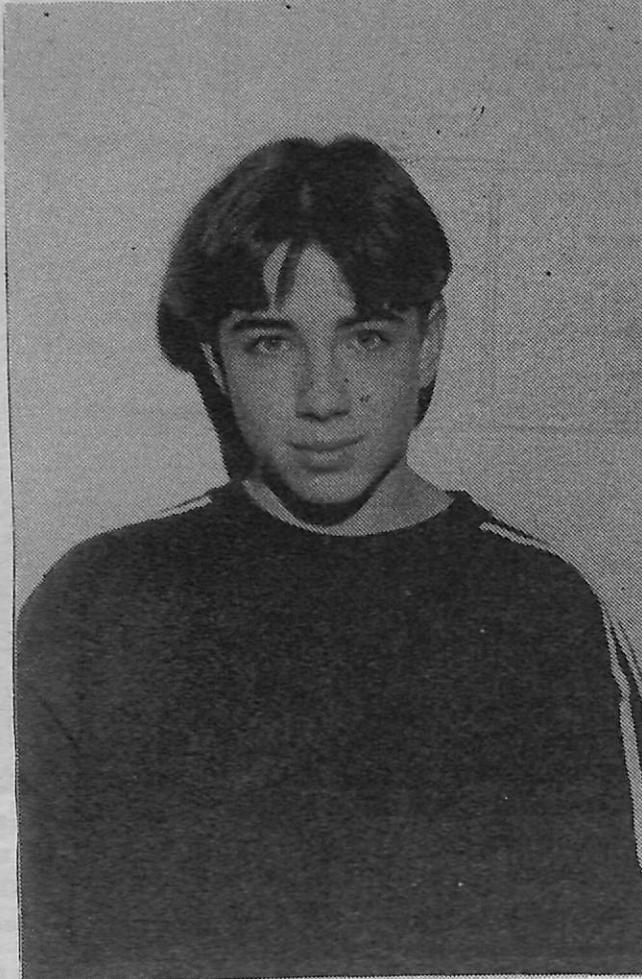


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Junior High "Artists Of The Month"



AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS Margaret Bulmer and Matthew Rheault have been named art "Students of the Month." Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Scheduling Info. Nights Planned For Sixth And Seventh Grade Students

The Agawam Junior High School will be holding two scheduling and curriculum information nights.

The first night will be for parents of sixth grade students on Monday, April 27th, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the junior high auditorium. The second night will be for parents of seventh grade students on Wednesday, April 29th, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the junior high auditorium.

Both nights will include information dealing with scheduling, homework, report cards, student agendas, and promotion policy. Light refreshments will be served.

Jr. High Seeking Parents To Serve As PTO Officers

A townwide Spelling Bee for fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students will be held on Friday, May 1st at 7:00 p.m. at the Agawam Middle School.

Competing in the Spelling Bee will be a representative from each homeroom class in the four elementary schools and the Middle School. The public is invited to attend the Spelling Bee. For those that are unable to attend, the event will be broadcasted live on cable TV.

Awards will be presented to all participants, and prizes will be given to first- and second-place winners at each grade level.

The Spelling Bee is being sponsored by the Agawam Junior Women's Club, a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts.

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Town Spelling Bee For Grades 4-6 Set For May 1st

The Agawam Junior High School PTO is currently recruiting parents of sixth and seventh grade students to serve as officers for the 1998-99 school year.

In addition, there will be several School Improvement Council positions open. This year's nominating committee, chaired by Sue Hamlett, PTO vice-president, will be putting together a slate of officers at the April 27th meeting of the PTO.

Specific positions include those of **president, 1st vice-president, 2nd vice-president, secretary, and treasurer**. Other volunteers are needed to help with fundraising and other events such as Teacher Appreciation Day and the 8th Grade Celebration.

Commitment as an officer of the PTO requires one hour per month to attend monthly meetings. All business conducted by the PTO requires a minimum of three officers to be present with two additional members, either teachers, parents, or school administrators.

Among this year's PTO activities were a two-week fundraiser at the beginning of school, funding of school assemblies and after-school sports, funding of requests for student awards and recognition, funding of requests that support the School Improvement Plan, the 8th Grade Celebration, and the upcoming Teacher Appreciation activities.

Interested parents are encouraged to contact either Sue Hamlett at 786-6477 or outgoing PTO President Patrick Decoteau at 789-1155. Thank you for your support!

Babysitting Course At Ag. Library

The Agawam Public Library will offer its annual "Introduction to Babysitting" series for youngsters aged 10 and up on Thursdays, April 30th, May 7th, and 14th, from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Health and safety issues will be covered by Registered Nurse Hilda Bartnik, Fire Department Drill Inspector Michael Mercadante, and Police Safety Officer Steven Draghetti.

Library staff members Wendy McAnanama and Jeanne Hofmann will offer suggestions for age-appropriate activities when babysitting infants and young children. Certificates will be awarded to everyone who attends all three sessions.

Registration is limited to Agawam and Feeding Hills residents who have not previously participated in the program, and will continue through April 24th, or until the series is filled to capacity.

best local news...

Kirsten L. Decoteau has been selected to participate in the NASA Langley Research Center's 1998 *Langley Aerospace Research Summer Scholars (LARSS) Program*.

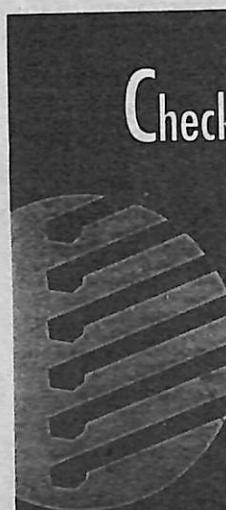
NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, has been instrumental in shaping aerospace history for eight decades. Established in 1917 as the first national civil aeronautics laboratory, Langley has become a comprehensive, world-class center for aeronautics, atmospheric sciences, and space technology.

Langley's research includes systems analysis/integration/assessment, aerodynamics, aerothermodynamics, hypersonic propulsion, structures, materials, atmospheric sciences and remote sensing, and airborne systems, including crew station design and integration.

As a summer intern, Ms. Decoteau will be provided an opportunity to pursue an assigned project under the supervision of a Research and Technology Group mentor.

Currently, Ms. Decoteau is completing her sophomore year at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, where she is majoring in Mechanical Engineering. A 1996 graduate of Agawam High School, she is the daughter of Patrick and Donna Decoteau of Feeding Hills.

Please remember our deadline is every Tuesday at noon. We open at 6:30 a.m.



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Sports

Hot Patterson, AHS Softball Off To 3-0

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

It's been awhile since Central High of Springfield has beaten Agawam in softball. And it looks as if it will be sometime longer. The Brownies beat the Golden Eagles, 11-2 at sunny Harmon Smith Field Monday afternoon.

For a while, the kids from Springfield hung in there, but the Brownie hitters, combined with the pitching of Ali Jackobek in her first varsity start, was just too much in the end. The junior went six innings, giving up four hits while striking out nine and walking six, to record her first win of the season against no losses.

After a scoreless first inning, Agawam put a run on the board. Senior Amber Conte walked and went to second on a Dianna DiStefano sacrifice. The sophomore catcher then stole second and came home on another sacrifice off the bat of Jess Montagna.

Jackobek was on cruise control until the fourth. After striking out the lead-off hitter, a single and two walks sandwiched around another out, saw the bases loaded. Jackobek reached back and whiffed Central's Jen Botta to get out of the jam.

Central In A Bit Of A Jam

The Brownies put Central into a jam of its own in the bottom of the inning. DiStefano, back from a shoulder injury, walked. Montagna sacrificed her to second. DiStefano then stole third and came home on a wild pitch. Jackobek walked and went to second on a wild pitch.

Steph Fleming lined a shot to third which was botched, scoring Jackobek. Fleming went to third on another error and scored on another error by the Central infield. It was 4-0, Agawam, after four. Central managed its first run in the top of the fifth off a walk and a sac fly.

The flood gates blew wide open in the Brownie half of the fifth. Shortstop Kristen Patterson, the returning Division I Player of the Year, who would have two hits including a triple plus three steals, drew a walk. After a hit batter, Conte singled home two runs. She stole second and scored on a wild pitch. DiStefano also scored, as did Jackobek.

When the smoke cleared, Agawam had batted around and led 11-1 going into the sixth inning. Central, which had arrived late, had to be contemplating an early exit with the mercy rule in effect. They managed to score their final run in the sixth. But it was way too little.

Agawam came away with a 3-0 slate. The Eagles fell to 2-2.

AHS would end up with nine hits while recording only one strikeout. With her three steals, Patterson's theft total rose to 10 in three games. Though she didn't have an RBI against Central, her total there stands at eight. Patterson once again showcasing her talents. She's hitting in the third spot in the order (for three years she led off) and her production is better than ever. "We were pretty sure Kristen would have no problem in the three spot. We were right," Coach Debbie Lickley smiled.

AGAWAM STATS: Fleming: 1-4, 1 run scored; Mastroianni: 1-4; Patterson: 2-3 (triple), 3 sb, 1 run scored; Hadden: 0-1; Conte: 2-3, 2 runs scored, 1 rbi, 2 stolen bases; DiStefano: 2-2, 2 runs scored; Montagna: 1-1, 1 run scored; Moysis: 0-1.

PITCHING: Jackobek: 6 IP; 9 SO; 6 Walks; 2 Runs; 2 ER; 02.03 ERA.

JV GIRLS vs CENTRAL

The JV girls mugged the Central JVs, 23-0 for their third straight win. The winning pitcher for Agawam was junior Diane Balicki (3-0). Coach Lynda Kunasek admitted the Golden Eagle defense was suspect. "We really haven't been challenged yet." She applauded Alison Pisano and Jen Lyman for their outstanding play.

Our deadline is every Tuesday at noon. We open weekdays at 6:30 a.m. Thanks.



SENIOR CLASS MEMBERS of the 1998 Agawam High varsity baseball team. Back row, from left - Bryan O'Quinn, Jay Hanscom, Mike Wing, Andrew St. Jean, Austin Kimball, and Kevin Cornwell. Front row - Doug Nooney, Kyle Gendron, Brady Martin, Mike Sullivan, and Ryan White. Missing - Ryan Progulske. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Torrid Bats Launch Brownie Ball To Third Straight Victory

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High boys' baseball team rolls on. They travelled all the way to Pittsfield Monday afternoon and came away with a 12-4 win, and a 3-0 record, making the trek worthwhile while continuing their blistering hitting.

Brian St. Jean, just a sophomore (but pitching like a senior veteran), got the win (his second of the season). While the kid was taking care of business on the mound, the Brownie offense was busy with their bats, pounding out 15 hits.

Senior first baseman Austin Kimball led the slugfest, going 4-4, including a three-run dinger. Brady Martin, another senior, was 3-5 with a triple and two singles. Senior second sacker Mike Wing was 2-4. One of his hits was a triple.

Brian's brother and batterymate, Andy St. Jean, contributed on defense. "Andy has a gun for an arm. He threw out two runners trying to steal second," first year Coach Pete Clark said.

"We've got to work on some of the subtle things, like hitting the cutoff man. But that will come with practice," Clark added. He noted the

work ethic of his senior laded team (14 out of 17). "They are beginning to realize that hard work pays off," he said.

Clark praised hitting coach Brian Rheault for teaching the kids how to hit a baseball correctly. Indeed, they've scored 32 runs in their last two games, a total that goes hand-in-hand with good stickwork.

Pitching will be the key, according to Clark. St. Jean is entrenched as the number one guy. Eric Melbourne has shown well. "We have to find a couple more pretty soon, before we get into our Valley League season," he admitted.

Veteran senior Bryan O'Quinn, who was an effective hurler last year, is back after an ankle injury. "Bryan is coming around. He'll get plenty of playing time both pitching and in the outfield," the coach noted.

Clark also singled out senior third baseman Kevin Cornwell as a kid who has been hitting early on.

Brownies Boys Get First Win Ever In Varsity Lacrosse; Beat Brattleboro, 8-5

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High boys' lacrosse team handed visiting Brattleboro (VT) High School an 8-5 defeat Tuesday afternoon for the school's first-ever varsity win after leaving club status two years ago.

Things didn't start out on such a bright note for the Brownies, as they found themselves down 3-0 midway through the second period. However, behind some heroics supplied by Ryan Grealis, Dan Balboni, and Glenn Corlett, they came storming back.

Grealis, a senior and wrestling star, got Agawam's first score at the six minute mark of the second period. Grealis circled the enemy net, took a pinpoint pass from Balboni, and scored from 10 feet out to make it 3-1, Brattleboro.

Then, with the kids from Vermont a man short, Balboni got one of his own two minutes later off an assist from Corlett, and the Brownies were just one down, 3-2.

With one minute left in the half, Corlett, who would have four goals and an assist for the contest, got his second to tie it at three heading into the intermission.

Brownies Go To Work

The third period saw Brattleboro score about halfway through to jump back on top, 4-3. Then the Brownies went to work.

The last four minutes of the period saw them put five balls in the net. Corlett scored on a neat assist from Grealis, who totally beat his man and

gave it up to his teammate for a 4-4 tie.

Corlett put Agawam up 5-4 on an unassisted score at the 3:19 mark. Senior attacker Chris Gaffney joined the hit parade with 1:06 left on a rocket from 10 feet away, off an assist by Balboni.

"We were getting some breaks and when we did, we capitalized on them," Brownie lacrosse Coach Nick St. George noted.

Agawam's seventh score was another Corlett effort. Once again, Grealis fed him the ball for an assist. The most impressive Brownie score was their final one. Balboni won the faceoff and fed sophomore Dave Moore. Moore, in turn, clipped off a pass to Grealis, who put it by the Brattleboro goalie for his second goal of the game to go along with two assists.

Brownies At 1-1

The win evened the Brownie record at 1-1. St. George praised his offense. "This game saw the best job of passing we've ever had." He also had good words for goalie John DeCaro. The freshman managed 15 saves.

"Defense is still our strong point," St. George said. He singled out sophomores Eric Pedersen, Kevin Grealis, Brian Gilhooly, and senior George Graves as being particularly effective when the opposition had the ball.

He also mentioned senior midfielder Simon Tyrberg, an AFS exchange student from Sweden.

SEE BOYS' LACROSSE - Page 37...

DeMarco & Drenzek Go On Scoring Binge In 16-6 Lacrosse Win

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

There were a few nervous moments for the Agawam High (4-1) girls' lacrosse team in a 16-6 win over East Longmeadow on Tuesday afternoon.

With three minutes gone in the game, they trailed the Spartans, 2-0.

"I asked myself, what's going on here? This isn't supposed to happen. On paper, we were supposed to be a much stronger team," Brownie Coach Cindy Grieve said of those tense moments. The coach, who has built a strong squad in her three years at the helm, need not have worried. Her girls woke up and it was goodnight Irene.

They got it on, thanks to the continued stellar play of attacker Jill DeMarco, who had four goals and three assists. Another senior, Sara Drenzek, chipped in with four scores and an assist. But, as Grieve stressed, it was another team effort. "We spread things around; eight kids either scored or assisted. Once again our offense revolved around the passing game, which almost always sets up our scoring and also sets us up on defense," said Grieve.

Keeper Mary Elizabeth Dupelle had three saves. "The kids in front of her played well. They did things you need to do to win, especially denying the other team a clean shot at the net," Grieve added.

She had praise for Drenzek's performance. "The day before the game, we practiced hard getting her the ball in front of the net. Sara showed how the work paid off. We need her to produce on offense this year. I think she's coming around and is playing with more confidence."

Sophomore Amanda Sternowski, up from junior varsity to fill gaps caused by injuries, also played well, obviously trying hard for a permanent job on the varsity. "Amanda is an all-out player who never quits. She saw a lot of action against East Longmeadow. She is learning with every minute of playing time she gets," the coach observed.



GIRLS' VARSITY LACROSSE COACH
Cindy Grieve and her two 1998 senior captains - Lindy Gage (left) and Sara Drenzek. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

BOYS' LACROSSE - from Page 36...

"This is Simon's first year playing the game of lacrosse. He had a great game, especially on defense."

The Brownies needed the win because they have a tough one this Friday at Harmon Smith Field, when South Hadley comes calling. The Tigers are on a roll with a win already over powerful Western Mass. and State Champion Longmeadow.



SENIOR CLASS MEMBERS of the 1998 Agawam High boys' tennis team include, back row - Tom Livengood, Jon Couture, and Geoff Krapf. Front row - Bob Bousquet, Jeff Lyman, Ted Lee, and Jeff Machia. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Brownie Boys' Tennis Bows To EL

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High boys' tennis team lost a road match to East Longmeadow Monday afternoon, 4-1.

First singles saw the Brownies' Jeff Lyman fall to Spartans junior Dave Donn. "Dave is one of the best singles players in this part of the state. He was just too consistent for Jeff in the end. He can place the ball and had my guy on the defensive for most of the match," said AHS Coach Bill Spear.

Ted Lee was a winner in second singles, 6-4, 7-5. It was Lee's first win of the season. The coach was particularly pleased with how Lee came through in the close match.

Senior Jeff Machia lost a close one, 5-7, 5-7 in third singles. Machia played well, but was just a little too defensive, according to Spear.

First doubles was a tough one for the Brownies. Brett Demers and Bob Bousquet won the first set, 6-1, but couldn't stand the prosperity, falling 4-6, 4-6 in the next two sets. "It all came down to their opponents' skill at the net, which is the key to good doubles play," Spear admitted.

Second doubles wasn't much better, as Jon Couture and Mike Halpy fell, 6-2, 6-2. Again, Spear stressed that to win at doubles, you have to play doubles style - serve and volley.

At this writing, his club is 0-2. "It's a tough start. We'll learn by our mistakes. Our biggest problem right now is our doubles play. We'll work hard on that aspect of our game. It will come around and we'll be better later in the season," Spear observed.



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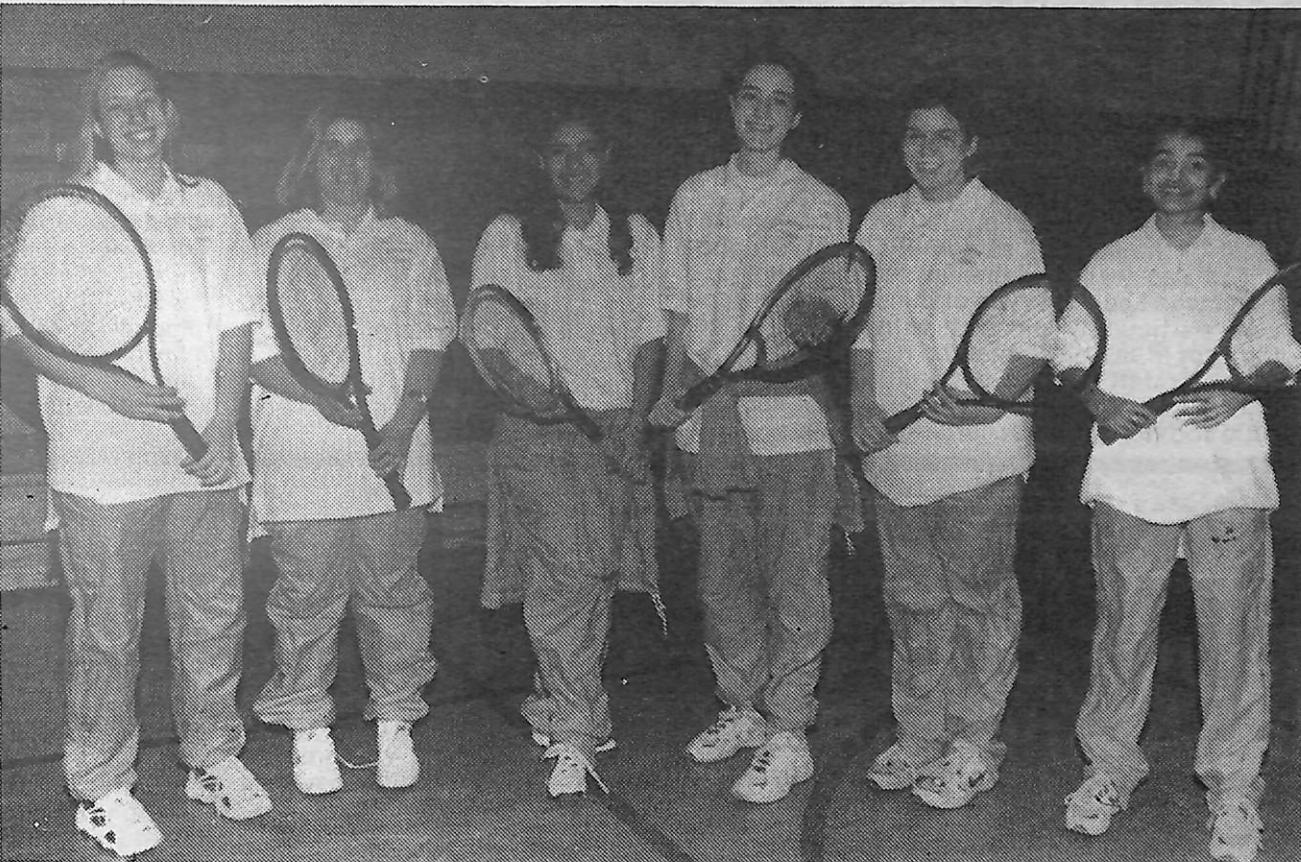
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THE 1998 AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL girls' tennis team. Back row: Lynn Hopkins, Kaitlin White, Andrea Cizek, Joyce Tedone, and Coach Mary Wolochowicz. Middle row: Seema Gada, Michelle Clauson, Janice Balicki, and Wendy Gonzales. Front row: captains Courtney Locke and Maureen Dimock. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



IN PHOTO ABOVE: The seniors on the girls' tennis team (from left to right) - Michelle Clauson, Janice Balicki, Wendy Gonzales, Maureen Dimock, Courtney Locke, and Seema Gada. **IN PHOTO BELOW:** Captains Courtney Locke and Maureen Dimock with Coach Wolochowicz. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



Girls' Tennis Team Bows To Cathedral & East Longmeadow

In its first match of the 1997-1998 season, the Agawam High School girls' tennis team fell to Cathedral High School, 3-2, on Thursday, April 9th.

In first singles, **Maureen Dimock** battled with ground strokes and came to the net for some successful volleys, but Jessica Bryson of CHS had the more consistent game, according to Coach Mary Wolochowicz.

Playing in her first singles match, **Kaitlin White**, playing second singles, was a pleasant surprise. "Her ground strokes were consistent and she was able to move well," according to the coach. "Andrea Hughes of CHS had a lot more singles experience and that carried her through the match."

In the third singles match, **Janice Balicki** came away the winner, 6-2, 1-6, 6-3. "Janice was another surprise in her first-ever tennis match," said Wolochowicz. "Not only did she play well, but also was able to come back to win after a second set loss."

Utility player **Courtney Locke** and AFS student **Wendy Gonzales** were put into the position of first doubles with little doubles experience. "So many seniors were lost from last year's team that we found ourselves rebuilding all over the place," said Wolochowicz. "For playing together for the first time, they showed some positive aspects as well as gave us ideas for future practices."

Seema Gada and **Andrea Cizek**, playing in their first match, came away with a victory, 6-3, 7-6 (7-3). "They played doubles for the first time, won a match for the first time, and played a tie-breaker for the first time," said the coach.

"Considering Cathedral is in a higher division, it was really not too bad for a first match," said Wolochowicz. "We have a lot to improve upon." ***

On Monday, April 13th, Agawam fell to East Longmeadow, 6-0. "Several things improved over the first match," said Coach Mary Wolochowicz, "but still some work needs to be done."

In first singles, **Maureen Dimock** had a tough day against Karen Sullivan. "Shots seemed off and the day just was not a lot of fun," said Wolochowicz.

Kaitlin White again played good tennis, chasing down a bunch of balls and playing very good defense, according to the coach. "With a bit more experience, she will become the aggressor," she said.

"Janice learned that there are players with more experience than you and you can't win them all," commented Wolochowicz on the third singles match of **Janice Balicki** vs. Megan Donn of EL. "Janice again played steady and tough, but Megan had a few more shots and finished most points. Good effort," the coach said.

Courtney Locke and **Wendy Gonzales** played first singles. According to Wolochowicz, "Courtney and Wendy played better than Friday, but still have a lot to learn. Positioning was better and they picked up a few more tough shots, but the more experienced team won."

In second singles, **Seema Gada** and **Andrea Cizek** played the tightest match of the day. "Seema and Andrea played tough, but Pam Cargill and Caitlin Mackenzie of EL won the big points," commented the coach.

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AHS SENIOR JODY BULAT

Jody Bulat Named To All Western Mass. Division B Ski Team

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Agawam High senior skier Jody Bulat is a member of the All-Western Mass. girls' ski team. She was on the second All-Western Mass. team last season, but this honor is a special one for her. "I've had some great moments during my career as a skier. This is the best," she smiled.

She feels that two things got her the award. First, good, old-fashioned hard work has a lot to do with it. "I also feel that we had some really good skiers on our team plus good ones around the league. They were always pushing me, so I had to ski harder," she noted.

Completed In Both Slalom & Giant Slalom

Jody competed in both slalom and giant slalom. She is quick to answer when asked which she liked best. "Without a doubt, it has to be GS. I like to go faster and that's an event based on speed," she laughed. Would she have considered downhill, which isn't offered around these parts? "I'd be the first one to sign-up," she added.

Jody finished the regular season in second place in the B Division and third overall. She is a four-time state qualifier and as a freshman and senior, she won the team's "Coaches Awards."

She fell in the state finals and finished 23rd overall. "That was very disappointing. I wanted to do so well. I just pushed the envelope a little too much, though," she admitted.

After graduation, Jody wants to study massage therapy. And skiing will always be in her future. "I hope to join a mountain club and continue to compete whenever I have the time."

Baseball Mini-Camp To Be Held During Spring Vacation

The Coaches' Baseball Camp will be running a Mini-Camp during the spring vacation. The camp will be run at the Sacred Heart athletic fields.

The dates will be Monday, April 20th, to Wednesday, April 22nd. They will be half-day sessions from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. (The rain "make up" day will be Wednesday afternoon.)

The cost of the camp is \$40. If you are interested, call 786-7729 or 789-4792, or sign up at the field that morning.

best local sports



COACH BILL DILLON and members of the 1998 Agawam High boys' track team. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

AHS Boys Track Off & Running

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High boys' track team had a good outing Monday afternoon with a 96 $\frac{1}{3}$ - 39 $\frac{2}{3}$ win over visiting Central High at Harmon Smith Field.

"It's still early. We had some good performances, but they could have been better," Brownie track Coach Bill Dillon observed. Junior Jason Flood had a long jump of 19 feet, which qualified him for the Western Mass. Tournament. Mark Pedraza won the triple jump at 37'3". He has done better, according to the coach. The junior also won the discus with a heave of 102'9".

Senior Bob Fuller was tops in the javelin at 129'6". "Bob was a nice surprise for us in that event," the coach noted. In order to make the tournament, Fuller will need a throw of 150 feet, which the coaches think he can accomplish before the season is done.

All-Western Mass. high hurdler Ian Lane was just nipped (by 1.5 seconds) in his specialty. "Ian has been troubled lately by a bad back," the coach said of his senior star. Tony Goodrow won the two-mile in 12:16. He was second in the mile.

The 440 looks like a strong event again for the Brownie sprinters. O'Connor took first (61.8), Flood took second, and freshman Tim Chretien was third.

Sophomore Barry Ward, senior Brad Tilden, and another senior, Tim Veighy, finished one-two-three in the 220 meters. Ward, a soccer standout, set the pace with 25.2. The two Thomas brothers (Dave and Mike) came in first and second in the 880. Dave, a junior, just beat out his sophomore sibling in a time of 2:14.

The Brownies also won the 4x100 in 48.7 with Ward, sophomore Edwin Torres, senior Brad Tilden, and Lane running anchor. The team of junior Tom Shibley, Flood, Mike Thomas, and O'Connor took the 4x 400 with a time of 4:15.

"Not all our wins will be like this. The track conditions here are a little on the sloppy side, which slowed both teams down a bit. As things firm up, we'll see some Western Mass. times emerge, especially in the track events," Dillon said.

The Brownies are 1-0 on the young season.

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Wing Flies For AHS Sports On Gridiron & Baseball Diamond

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

One of the most accomplished athletes at Agawam High School is Mike Wing. Recently, the senior took some time out to talk about his days at AHS.

Mike is 17 years-old. He'll turn 18 on May 17th. He's 5'8", 160 pounds. His four years of secondary education have been at the High School.

Mike has fulfilled all his requirements for graduation, so most of his subjects are of his choosing. This semester, he's taking chemistry, modern literature, English, and woodshop. "We make all kinds of things there for the school and for ourselves," Mike noted.

One project he's especially proud of is a scale model of a two-story house that took all year to build. "It has every detail you'd find in a regular size structure, including four separate roof lines. We built it from a blueprint provided by our teachers. It's so strong you could stand on it and nothing would happen," Mike noted.

It's no surprise then, that his favorite course is woodshop. He also favors modern literature. His top teachers are Donald Dorazio and Margo Poulin in Woodshop and modern literature, respectively.

Mike says he'll attend Springfield Technical Community College in the fall and hopefully transfer to a four-year school after that.

Football and baseball filled his athletic time at AHS. He was a wide receiver and defensive back on the gridiron. Currently, he's the starting shortstop on the baseball team. He has no favorite sport. "I like playing middle infield in baseball and I liked the excitement of football," he said. He batted .480 last season for the baseball team. He had 20 catches for 478 yards and three touchdowns, plus a 97-yard scoring scamper off an interception against West Side on Thanksgiving Day last football season.

Thanksgiving Day Game A Memorable One

Not surprisingly, his most memorable sports moment was that pick-off vs. the Terriers. "You always want to score against them. Plus, it was the Thanksgiving Day game, which made it even more special," he said of his contribution to the 27-8 Brownie win.

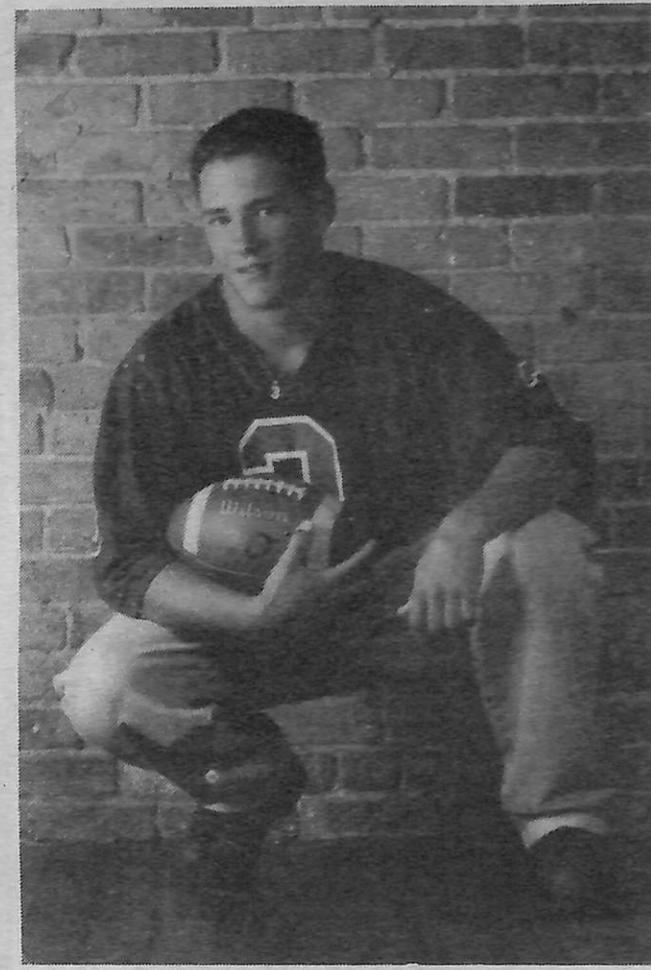
Turning to baseball, Mike sees substantial promise for the upcoming season. "We'll be in the hunt for a spot in the tournament. I think we could go all the way," he said of the veteran team which will see 13 players with varsity experience back this year.

His favorite food is prime rib.

Blue is his color of choice.

He favors a Jeep Eagle (Talon) for his wheels. "I have my eye on one right now that I might buy," he noted.

The New York Giants are his favorite team. Heisman Trophy winner Charles Woodson from the University of Michigan is his top athlete. "I



AHS SENIOR MIKE WING

like him because he was such a great defensive back," Mike stated.

Mike likes to kick back and hang out with his friends, preferably at the beach.

Jeans, t-shirts, sweaters, and a comfortable pair of boots are his preferred wardrobe.

Pink Floyd is his top musical group. "I like just about any kind of music, though," he added.

His top tube offering is "The Simpsons." "Dumb and Dumber" is his favorite flick.

Gary is his dad's name. Debra is his mom. He has a sister, Becky, who was a field hockey and softball standout at AHS a couple years back. She is currently attending Quinnipiac College in Hamden, Connecticut.

The people he most looks up to are his parents. "They've taught me a lot about life," he said.

When his days at AHS are done, Mike wants to be remembered as "a good person and a good athlete."



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AHS Wrestling Team Holds Banquet At Ferruccio's



WRESTLING CO-CAPTAINS Kevin McKay and Ryan Grealis. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



THE SENIORS ON THIS YEAR'S WRESTLING TEAM at the banquet held on March 20th at Ferruccio's (from left to right): Kevin McKay, Justin Stacy, Ryan Grealis, Kevin Suffriti, Darrell Malachowski, Kevin Hill, Bill Bellico, and Lee Kunkler. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

First Annual Alumni Track Meet Is Scheduled For Sunday, May 24th

The Agawam High School Track Parents' Association is sponsoring the **First Annual Alumni Track Meet** to be held on Sunday, May 24th, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. (with registration at 12:30 p.m.) at the Agawam High School Track Field.

The cost per alumni or resident athlete is \$3. Admission to the event is \$3 (general admission), \$2 (students with student I.D.), and free for seniors.

Come out and support the Agawam High School boys'/girls' track teams as they compete against former track athletes, other high school students, and residents. There will be pre-

registration forms available at the High School and at the Agawam Library. All forms should be returned by May 10th (with the \$3) to Emily Crough, 55 Dale Avenue, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

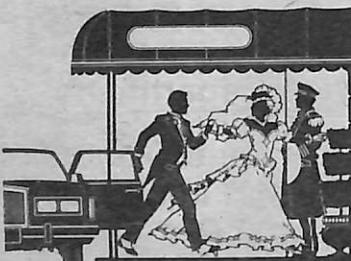
This event is a fundraiser for the Agawam High School track teams. All proceeds will be donated to the Track Parents' Association to continue assisting the athletes.

Volunteers are welcome to assist the officials and work the concession stand (which will offer coffee, juices, water, and snacks). Call Grace Tilden at 786-3942 or Debbie Ward at 786-2345 if you can help us out or for more information.

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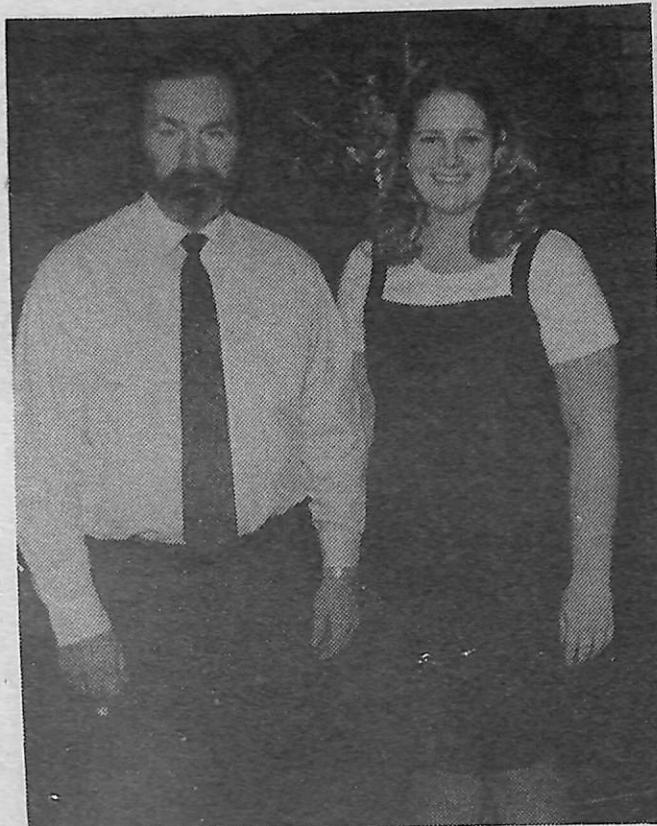
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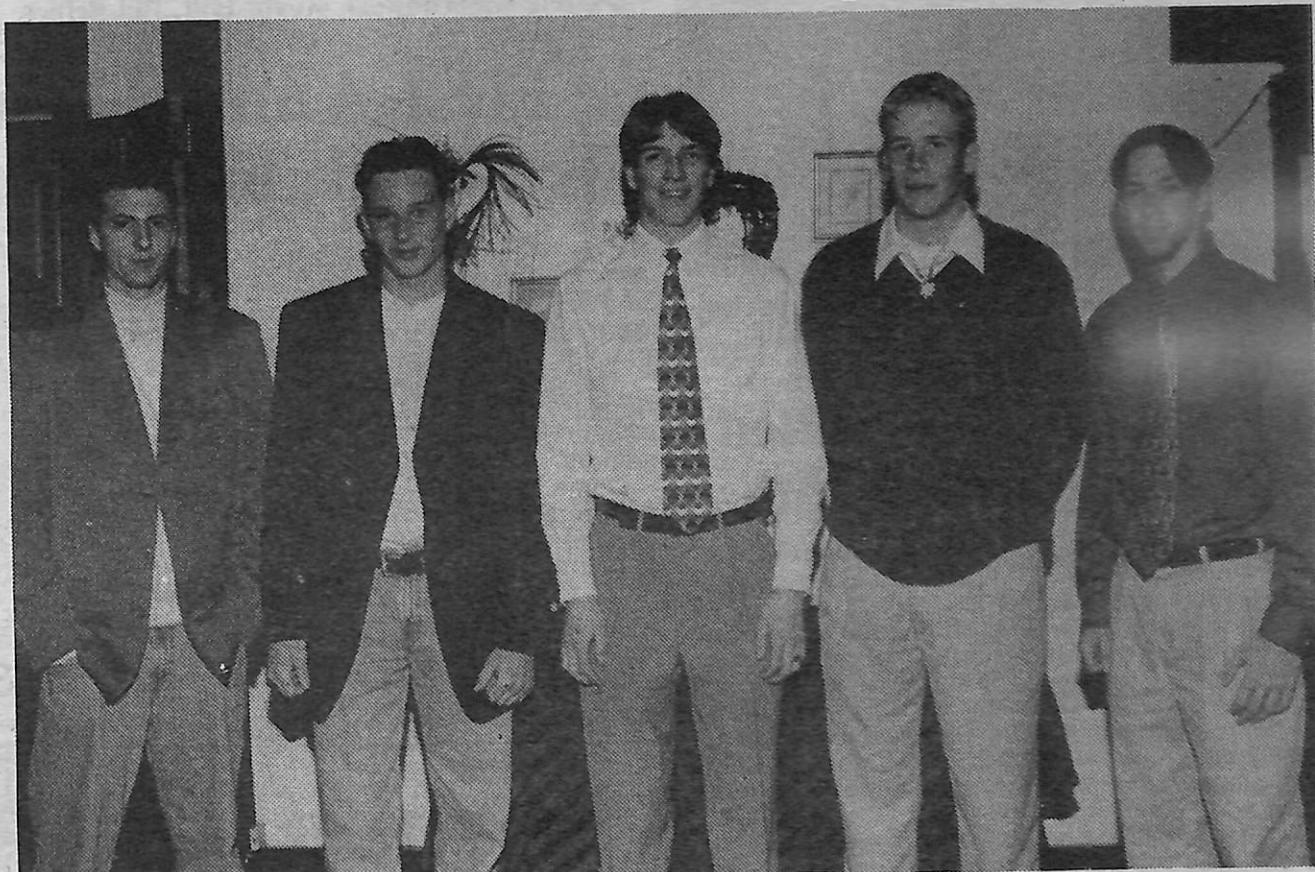
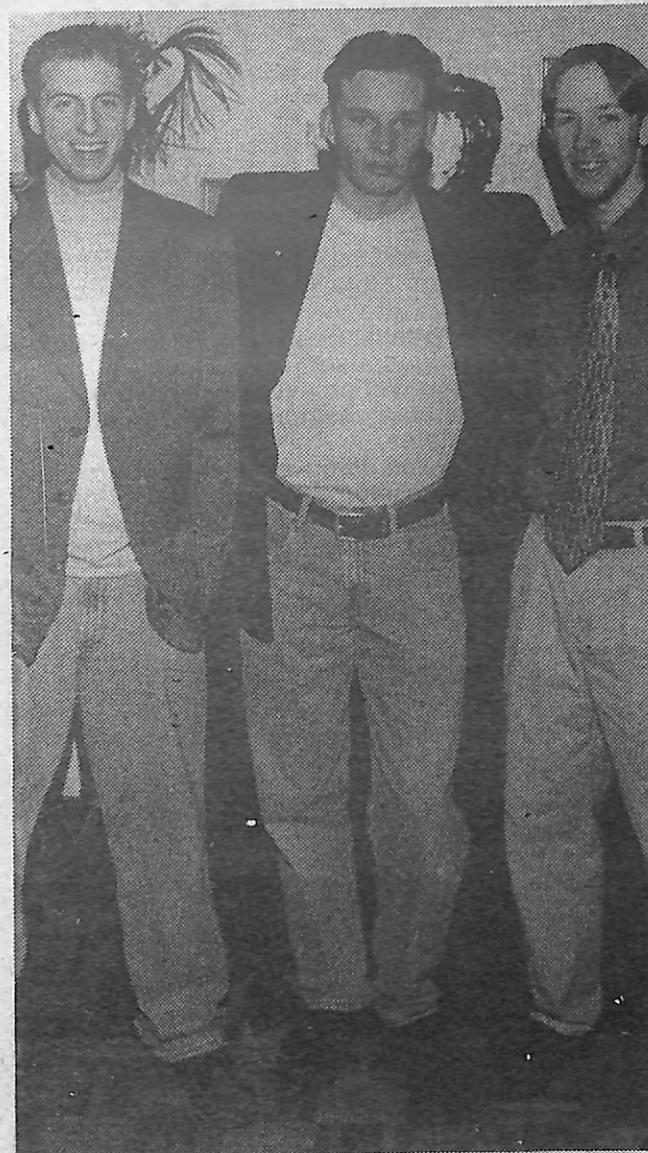
May 2: NASCAR Busch North Series!

AHS Girls' Ski Team Ends Season With Banquet



IN LEFT PHOTO: Girls' ski coach Jim Graveline with skier Jody Bulat. **IN RIGHT PHOTO:** Members of this season's girls' ski team - Angela Tassinari, Jody Bulat, Camilla Ringvold, Jen Thibodeau, Jessica Ferris, Aimee Duvall, and Michelle Clauson. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

AHS Boys' Ski Team Celebrates At Banquet



MEMBERS OF THIS SEASON'S boys' ski team at their banquet, held at Ferruccio's - Mike Savioli, Ryan Progulske, Daryl St. Laurent, Simon Tyrberg, and Steve Charest. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

CAPTAINS OF THIS SEASON'S boys' ski team - Mike Savioli, Ryan Progulske, and Steve Charest. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Organizational Day Slated For Men's Senior Golf League

The organizational day for the Agawam Men's Senior Golf League will be Thursday, April 30th.

We would like all golfers to be there (if possible), and we ask that you be there at 7:30.

We will be playing nine holes that day. The league will start on Thursday, May 7th, at 8:00 a.m.

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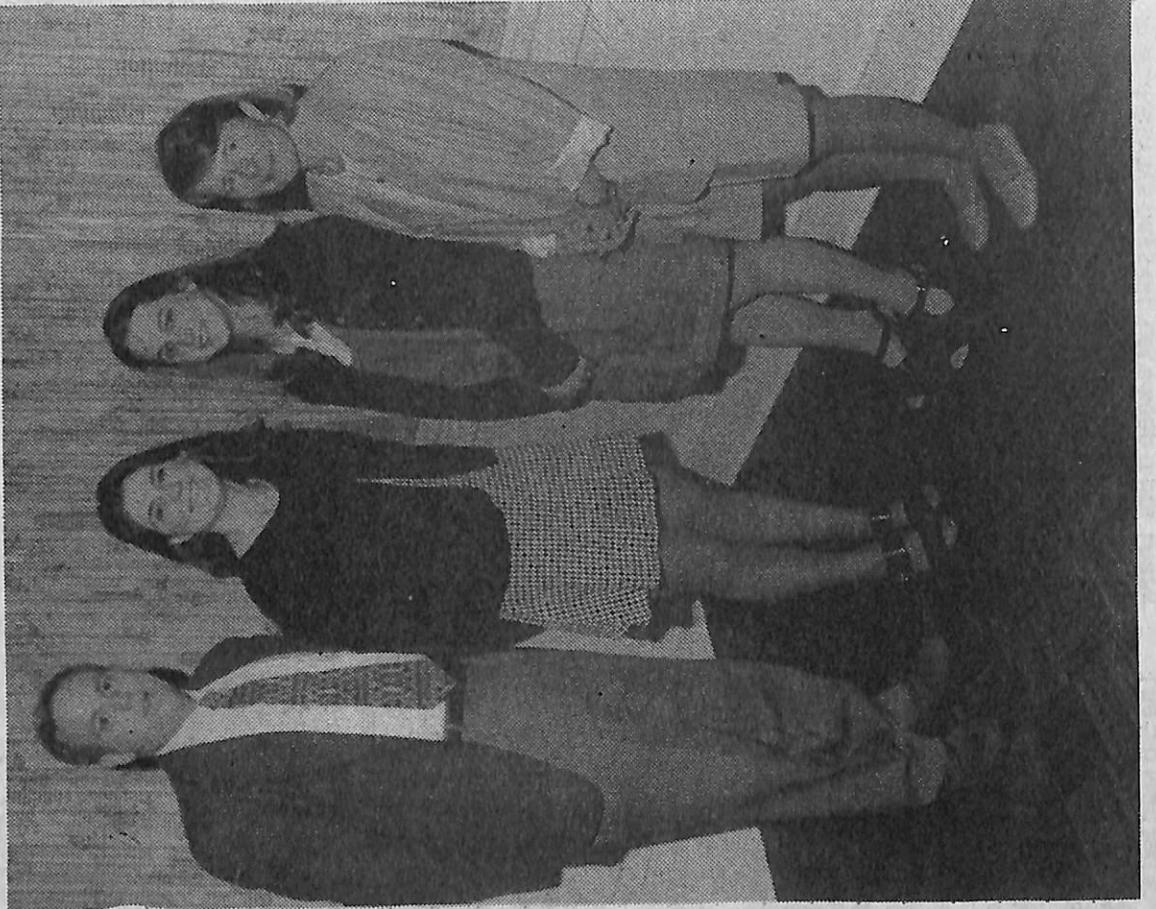
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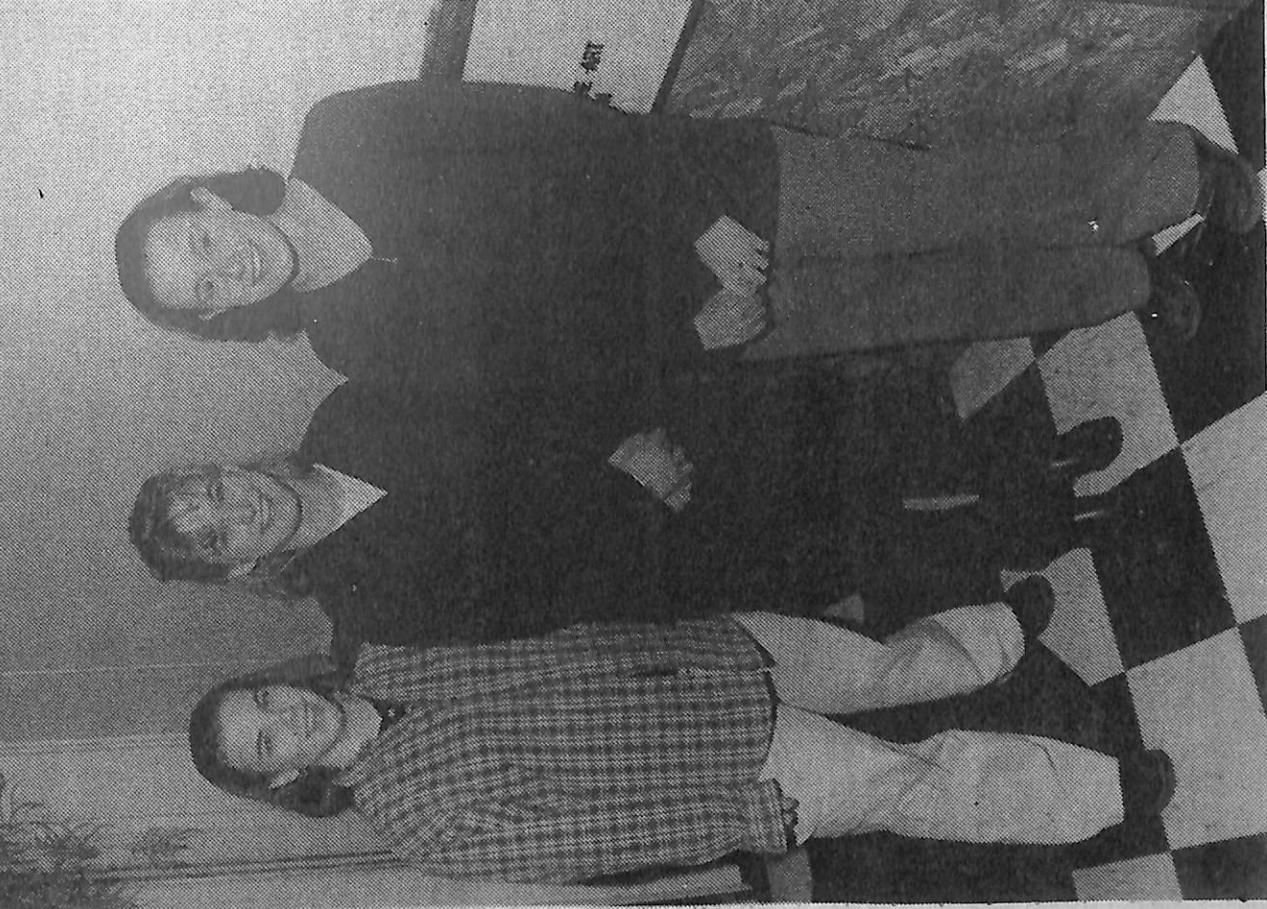
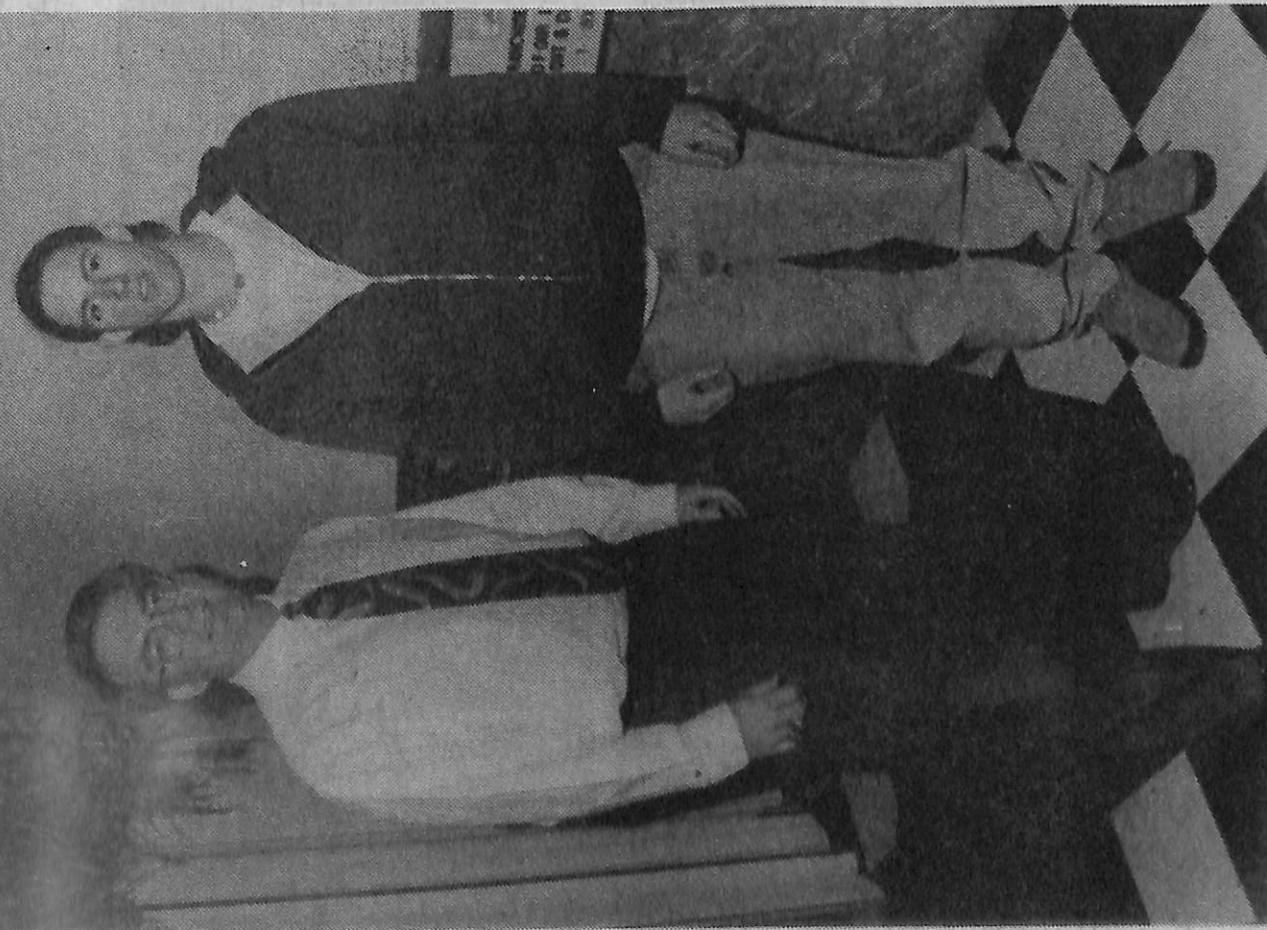
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AHS Girls' Basketball Team Looks Back At Season



LAST MONTH, the AHS girls' basketball team celebrated its stellar season at a banquet held at Alexander's Restaurant in Feeding Hills. IN LEFT PHOTO: Senior team members Shauna Hadden, Vanessa Galluzzo, Amber Conte, and Kristen Patterson. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Coach Lou Conte, co-captains Amber Conte and Kristen Patterson, and Coach Debbie Lickley. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Agawam High Swimmers With Their Coaches



IN LEFT PHOTO: Mayor Christopher Johnson, coach of the AHS boys' swim team, with Brendan Kilrain, co-captain and Western Mass. champ in the 50-yard freestyle. (Missing from photo: co-captain Charlie Roberts). IN RIGHT PHOTO: Kim Scofield (center), the girls' swim coach, with senior swimmers Kelly Robinson and Darcy Bates. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



Pioneer Valley Soccer Round-Up

U10 Hot Shots

On Saturday, April 11th, the U10 Agawam Hot Shots began a new life in their world of soccer. The team is playing up in the U11 age division this spring, taking on many new challenges (including playing on a bigger field with bigger goals, four additional players, and longer halves).

And, as with most teams this spring, the Hot Shots didn't get much practice time in prior to their first game. However, they did get on a full-size field once.

So, on that beautiful day before Easter, the Hot Shots took to the Ludlow field to play their first full-size game against Ludlow Storm.

The sun was really shining on the team that day and, after winning the opening kickoff, the Hot Shots never looked back. Three to four minutes into the game, the Hot Shots' forwards, working together, made the first goal.

Ludlow came back with a nice rainbow shot over the keeper for a goal about eight minutes later. Then, with seven minutes remaining in the first half, the forwards worked the ball up again to score their second goal. The first half ended with the Hot Shots ahead, 2-1.

In the second half, the Hot Shots came out wanting to do what they did in the first half. Five minutes into the half, the right halfback sent a nice pass to the center forward and she drilled it into the net for the team's third goal. Ten minutes later, one of the Hot Shots' forwards took the ball in for the fourth goal. The Hot Shots held off the Storm and won their first game, 4-1.

Keeper stats: 12 shots on goal, 11 saves.

Congratulations, Hot Shots! Great effort and teamwork always pays off. Let's keep it up! Thank you, parents, for the encouragement during the game.

U11 Girls - Cobras

The Agawam Middle School was the setting on April 7th for the start of the 1998 PVJSL Girls' U-11 Spring Season. This contest would see both Agawam teams, the Cobras and the Mongoose, squaring off.

The game remained scoreless until just before half-time, as both teams were playing very good defensively. Julie Czuprynski rocketed a shot off the crossbar from about 20 yards out, and Elise Davilli pounded in the rebound. This proved to be the only score of the half.

The second half saw a lot of action in the Umbrobelievable's end, as the Cobra girls provided plenty of offensive pressure. They tallied three more times in the second half, and the final was 4-0, Cobras.

The second game of the season saw the Cobra girls travel to Ludlow to take on the Ludlow Spirit. The two teams were matched pretty evenly in the first half. Both teams had chances to score, but were unable to capitalize.

In the second half, however, the Cobra girls really began to control play. The Cobra defense was outstanding. Led by sweeper Lauren Fox and fullbacks Meagan Pokorny and Liz Barker, they turned back each attempt Ludlow could muster, usually before they got to mid-field.

The halfbacks and front line did a great job applying pressure on the Ludlow goalkeeper. They totally dominated play in the second half. They were unable to put one in the net, though, and the game ended in a scoreless tie.

After the game, the referee made a special point to speak to Coach Marr and told him what a great team he has, and what a pleasure it had been to watch them play.

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U11 Boys - Annihilators

The Agawam Annihilators, the U-11 Boys' Division II soccer team, had a strong first game against Palmer in a driving rain.

Jordan Buiso had the first goal with an assist by Ryan Harlow. Strong defense was the key performance by Ryan Evans, Chase Sardella, and Mike Santos. Many attempts to score again against Palmer were led by forwards Joe Carraciolo and Nick Gruska, but Jordan Buiso had his feet in the right spot as he scored the second goal of the game with another assist by Ryan Harlow.

At the second half, the Annihilators' strong defensive plays by Dan Serna, Joey DeLuca, Justin Robinson, Corey Paquette, and Nick Cressintini gave the team a 2-0 win.

The goalie, Matt Footit, had an outstanding game with incredible saves to give him his first shutout of the season. ***

The Annihilators played against Franklin/Hampshire in Greenfield in the second game. Starting with his first goal of the season, Joe Carraciolo made a nice goal to move the Annihilators to a 1-0 score.

Within minutes, Joe Carraciolo made his second goal of the game. After a strong defense from Ryan Evans, Mike Santos, Nick Cressintini, and great defensive playing by Chase Sardella, Justin Robinson, Tommy Mercadante, and Corey Paquette, Joey DeLuca scored the third goal to give a 3-0 lead.

The second half started out with a goal from Ryan Harlow with a quick next goal by Joey Carraciolo with an excellent assist by Nick Gruska.

The 5-0 lead led the Annihilators with a great second game, only for the Franklin/Hampshire team to come back and score a goal, but the Annihilators weren't done yet, as Ryan Harlow scored the last goal of the game with the help from Jordan Buiso and Dan Serna. Once again, Matt Footit proved his aggressiveness in the net with a 6-1 win.

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U13 Girls - Tigers

The Agawam U13 Tigers began the first week of the 1998 Spring Pioneer Valley Spring Soccer Season with an easy 3-0 victory over Chicopee Ajax and a disappointing 1-0 setback to the Ludlow Cyclones in Division I play.

The season opened on Thursday, April 9th at the Middle School in a game played in driving rain against Chicopee. The Tigers dominated this game from start to finish. Striker Melissa Savenko scored two first half goals and fullback Sherrie Laskowski added another as the Tigers did all of their scoring in the opening 35 minutes.

The real story of this victory was the strong midfield play of center-halfback Whitney Brown, and halfbacks Aimee Beaudette, Ellen Rannenberg, Jen Sharpe, and Nicole Gendreau. Goalies Vicky Taylor and Sherri Laskowski shared in the shutout.

The next game was a different story against the Ludlow Cyclones, a strong Division I team who the Tigers beat twice last fall. Ludlow took the play right to Tigers goalie Vicky Taylor from the get-go. She made a magnificent, leaping save at the 15 minute mark on a shot that was earmarked for the upper left corner.

The Tigers settled down the rest of the half but did not have any real scoring threats.

Ludlow continued to press in the second half and the defensive play of center-fullback Danielle Cirillo, fullbacks Tricia Fitchben, Sherri Laskowski, Kaitlin Sardella, and sweeper Kim Hoague, as well as Vicky Taylor in the nets, kept Ludlow at bay.

The Cyclones scored with a little over seven minutes remaining when a loose ball squirted to the top of the penalty area and Ludlow's center halfback pounded it into the net.

The final seven minutes saw the Tigers finally wake-up as Ludlow was backed-up deep in its own end. Agawam had several golden opportunities to score. Striker Melissa Savenko was sent in on a semi-breakaway by wing Kaitlin Sardella and her wicked shot just sailed wide. The ball rolled around the front of the Cyclone net on several other occasions but no one could kick it in.

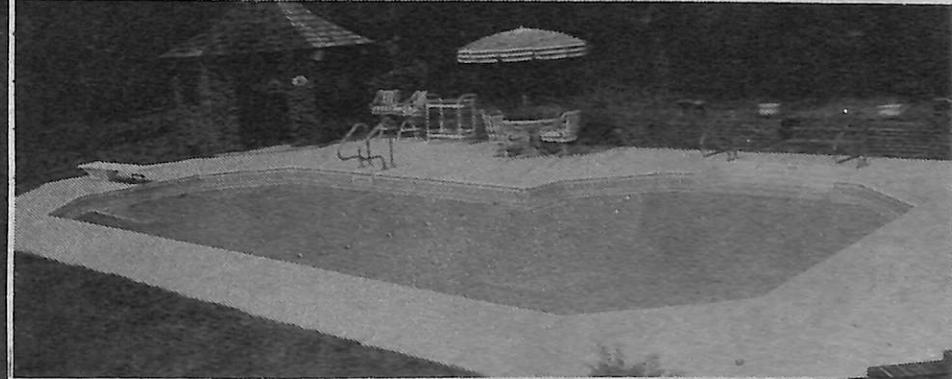
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**Outdoors
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by Kent Servis
Outdoor Writer

Spring Has "Officially" Arrived!

Well, it's official — spring has arrived! Balmy, almost summer-like temperatures over the weekend produced excitement for outdoorsmen everywhere.

The opening of the Connecticut trout season will bring out thousands of winter-weary anglers on Saturday. The Nutmeg State did a good job of getting out a good number of six- to nine-inch trout and some 12- to 16-inchers to boot.

In keeping with a 22-year tradition, I will spend the opening morning of trout season on the banks of the Scantic River in Somers.

Despite the high-water conditions, most anglers should be successful. The swift current and deep pools called for a little extra weight to keep our offerings bouncing along, just off the bottom.

Plain old garden worms, Berkley Power Bait, salmon eggs, and assorted spoons and spinners are all producing fish. Roostertails, Mepps, and Thomas Buoyants seem to be some of the most productive lures, according to some successful fishermen.

Western Mass. streams have been stocked for the most part, and are giving up some nice fish. Powder Mill Brook and the Westfield River, along with most streams, have given up some nice trout this year.

MORE BROODSTOCK ATLANTICS

Congamond Lakes in Southwick have received another plant of broodstock Atlantic Salmon this week. These fish are now classified as landlocked salmon and you may keep one. These fish are spawned-out broodstock from the Atlantic Salmon restoration effort.

After they have served their purpose, they are released into the lakes and ponds to provide angler sport.

Remember that returning Atlantic Salmon are protected in the rivers and streams and may not be taken.

FRESH WATER FISH REPORT

Tournament anglers were doing quite well in practice for the upcoming D.A.R.E. tournament at Congamond. Being a tight-lipped bunch of guys, nobody is talking about what they are using for lures or where they are taking them.

On Congamond or Hampton Ponds, try lead head and twister tail combos along deeper drop-offs. Jerk baits fished adjacent to emergent weed beds and channel edges will usually do the trick. (Grab a handful of the new K.B. Specials; they really work!).

The rivers are far too high at this point in time, and there is no news on fishing the Connecticut. The exception is that the white perch bonanza in Hamburg Cove continues. Micro tubes and small twister tail grubs on lightweight lead heads are doing the trick. The "bait and wait" crowd has been scoring on grass shrimp.

SALT WATER FISH REPORT

Stripers are continuing to hit in the Thames River, as well as in and around the mouth of the Connecticut River in the Old Saybrook area. The flathead jig and pork rind trailer combo seems to be the hot ticket and will probably continue to produce fish.

Winter flounder are being taken in Niantic Bay, the Niantic River, as well as at traditional spots like the Point Judith Breakwaters in Point Judith, Rhode Island. Sand worms seem to be outfishing clam strips, according to informed sources.

No party boat news this week, but it is safe to assume that there are no major changes from last week's report.

Some shad have been spotted in the lower stretches of the Connecticut River. It won't be long now!

Car Wash At Agawam Middle School On Saturday, April 18th

A benefit car wash will take place this Saturday, April 18th, at Agawam Middle School from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This event will be held rain or shine.

The proceeds from this car wash will be used to help support youth soccer.

check our classified

COA Golf Tourney Slated For May 29th

The third Annual Agawam C.O.A. Golf Tournament will be held May 29th at the Agawam Country Club. Cost of the tournament is \$40. This year's proceeds will go toward the new furnishings of the Senior Center.

Tee off time is at 12:00 noon. Snacks will be served at 11:30 a.m. (cheese, fruit, and crackers). This year, the tournament will end with cold cut grinders, potato and macaroni salad, pickles, and olives.

Golf registration forms are available at the Senior Center. Support the Agawam seniors! Join in the fun! Many raffle prizes and one grand prize will be offered. For more information, call the Senior Center at 786-0400, ext. 242.

Springfield Tennis Club Looking For Members At Forest Park Courts

The Springfield Tennis Club is a group of over 200 players of all levels of playing ability who play on some of the finest clay courts in the New England area located in Forest Park, Springfield.

The club offers organized round robin tennis mixers and an organized "Springfield Tennis Club" league where players of "like" ability are matched to play. They will also run two tournaments this year.

If interested in joining, write to Springfield Tennis Club, P.O. Box 80507, Springfield, MA 01138-0507 and request a membership application.

For further information regarding the club, call 737-6375 or 547-6145.

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Local Men Play In International Charity Postal Hockey Tourney

Two local residents returned home April 12th after participating over the weekend in the 22nd Annual International Canadian Postal Hockey Tournament in Toronto, Canada.

Randy Gauthier of Agawam is a member of the "senior" Pond Rats hockey team, and along with Feeding Hills resident Mark King of the "junior" Pond Rats team, has played in this tournament for five years.

Pond Rats team members are all postal employees and raise funds during the year to help offset the \$600 registration fee and cost of their transportation by holding raffles and selling T-shirts.

"The competition was tremendous again this year," remarked Don Rostowski, coach for the "junior" Pond Rats, "and out of the 19 American teams who participated in this event, our 'junior' team went the farthest in the competition. We beat five Canadian teams and made it to the semi-finals — the farthest we have ever gone in this competition."

"It is wonderful to participate in this international event," added Bob Lane, coach for the "senior" Pond Rats, "to continue the relationships between postal employees that far outreach our borders."

Since its inception in 1977, the International Canadian Postal Hockey Tournament has raised more than \$875,000 for charitable organizations.

The Pond Rats play locally on Sundays at the Olympia in West Springfield. They finished the 1997-98 season in third place in the Pioneer Valley Over-30 League.

best local news...

Richie Gallup Wins Riverside Modified 50

Riverside Park Speedway opened up its weekly Winston Racing Series program with five features on a chilly Saturday night under a full moon.

Richie Gallup of Agawam beat out 1997 Champion Ted Riggott for the win in the 50-lap NAPA Modified feature. Gallup and Riggott were followed by Rob Summers in third place. Eddy Spiers and Dan Avery couldn't match the fast pace set by the top three and finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

Negotiating through a seven-car pileup on the back stretch on lap seven, Summers and Riggott raced two abreast for several laps, followed by eventual race winner Gallup in third position. The action in the final 10 laps kept the cold fans on their feet as Riggott and Gallup battled out the close finish.

The 40-lap Serv-U Auto Supply Pro Stock feature

saw Scott Bouley dance his trademark Irish Jig after powering his Pontiac to Victory Lane. Bouley, who will open up the NASCAR Busch North Series next weekend at Lee USA Speedway, beat out Agawam native Tom Fearn and Todd Owen of Somers, Connecticut for the win. March 29th winner Willie Hardie, Jr. landed in fourth place and Rich Vasseur finished fifth.

Dennis Charette gave his father a birthday present he won't soon forget - a win in the 25-lap Sportsman feature. Charette was followed by the No. 19 of Rick Leavitt and the No. 74 of Derek McLellan. George Colton and Chris Drouin filled out the top five.

Jonathan Yourga led from green to checker to take the 20-lap Super Stock feature in convincing style. Yourga, who also captured a heat race win, finessed his Old Amherst Ale House No. 76 past Rick Leavitt and Derek McLellan for the win.

Fourth place went to George Colton, followed by Chris Drouin of Bristol, Connecticut.

The 20-lap Mini Stock feature went to Milford, Connecticut native John Constantini who beat out Will Smith of Enfield and 16 year-old Juris Kupris, Jr. Kupris, however, was later disqualified. The disqualification saw George Correia land in third and March 29th winner Ace Johnson in fourth. David Sullivan of East Hartford took home a fifth place finish.

Riverside Park Speedway continues its season April 18th. The ISMA Super Modifieds will make their first ever appearance at the 50 year-old quarter-mile facility with a 75-lap season opening championship points race. Fans in attendance on the 18th will also witness another Riverside Park Speedway first - the debut of the Teddy Bear Pools Truck division.

Teddy Bear Trucks Ready For Riverside!

Riverside Park Speedway's newest NASCAR Winston Racing Series division will compete for the first time on Saturday, April 18th. The Teddy Bear Pools Truck division replaced the Late Model division at Riverside Park Speedway.

"The new trucks look great, and I know these guys are excited," says Riverside Park's Director of Auto Racing Joe Lewandoski. Prior to working at Riverside Park Speedway, Lewandoski was instrumental in launching the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series in 1992. "I think this division will give the fans something more for their money." Lewandoski said he expects a field of at least 19 trucks to start the first race.

Teddy Bear Pools and Spas of Chicopee stepped in during the off-season as the new division's

primary sponsor. Ted Hebert, owner of the popular regional pool and spa store, has been involved with racing for 15 years and says this sponsorship "was a good opportunity for me to contribute to the racing community."

Although 20 trucks have been built, only a few trucks have been spotted around the Agawam 1/4-mile oval during early season practice sessions.

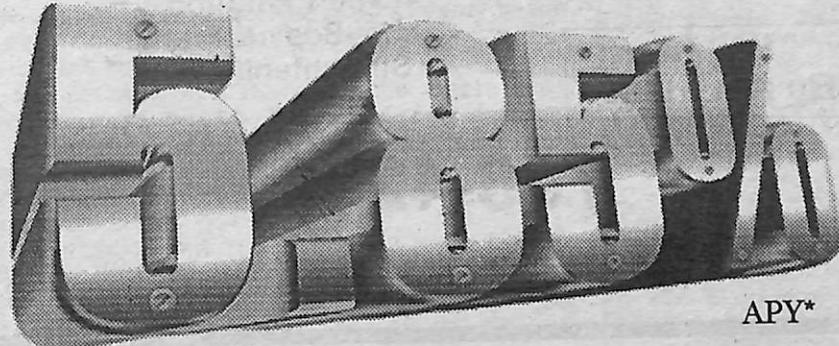
Gee Perry of Granby, Connecticut was the 1995 Late Model Division Champion at Riverside Park Speedway and graduated this year to the Teddy Bear Pools Truck Division. Perry spoke of his experience at some of the early practice sessions and said he expects the new division to be suc-

cessful. "I think everybody will use their heads and it'll be a real good division," said Perry.

Perry said he was pleased with the handling of his Artioli Dodge Ram. "It feels stable going in to the corners because of the width of the truck." Perry pointed out that the trucks are four inches wider than the old late model cars. "I also like that you can see very well because you're sitting up higher," said Perry.

The 30-lap inaugural Teddy Bear Pools Trucks race will be accompanied by ISMA Super Modifieds appearing at Riverside Park for the first time, Serv-U Auto Supply Pro Stocks, and Figure 8's. Heat races begin at 6:00 p.m. and feature races begin at 7:30 p.m.

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COACH TIM DAGGETT (back row, middle) and members of his boys' gymnastics team. Back row - Todd Henry, Jamey Houle, and Darren Morace. Front row - Alan Parsons, Mark Parzych, Mike Marino, and Steven Gaudette. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Daggett's Boys Clean-Up At State Meet

The gymnastics season is gearing up for state, regional, and national championships and so are the young men of Tim Daggett Gold Medal Gymnastics.

On April 4th-5th at Curry Hicks Cage on the campus of UMass, Daggett gymnasts won six gold medals, three silvers, two bronze, and had five other top 10 finishers in the Massachusetts State Championship.

In Class One Junior Elite, Darren Morace used a 9.25 on vault to win the all around with a 50.95. Agawam's Matt Perry competed a 44.80. In Class Two Junior Elite, Jamey Houle continued his winning ways with a 51.85 all around that included a

9.0 on floor (1st), a 9.05 on vault (2nd), and a 9.4 (T2nd) on the always treacherous pommel horse.

Teammate Pat McFarlin finished a strong second with a 9.4 on pommel (T2nd) and a 9.1 on floor (1st). In Class Three, Steven Gaudette used a 9.0 (1st) on floor to take the top spot in the all around with a 51.65.

Alan Parsons finished a strong second with a 49.20 that included an 8.5 (1st) on high bar. Class Four gymnast Michael Marino had a first on rings (8.0) and first all around (46.0) and Jeff Krok had a first on parallel bars (7.4) and second all around.

Daniel Messier finished fourth at 44.15 and Alex Smith had a 41.4. Class Five saw Mark Parzych

use a first on floor (9.2), pommel horse (8.8), parallel bars (9.0), and high bar (8.6) to take the all around title (54.2).

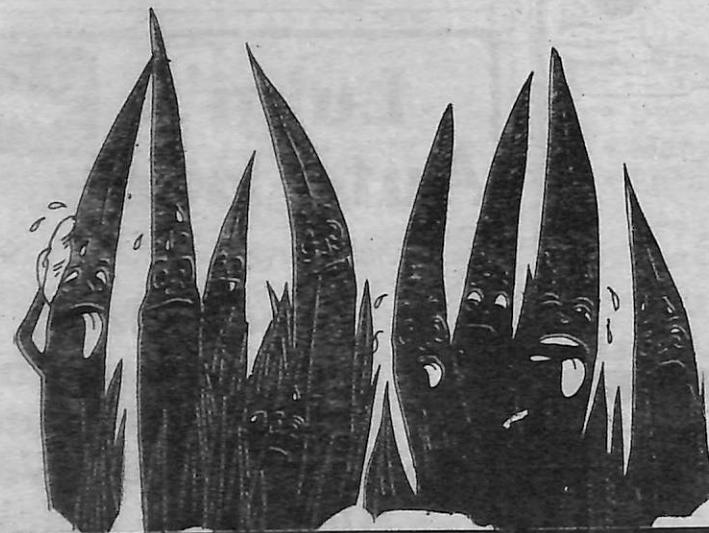
Daniel Liebowitz finished second (51.8) on the strength of his 9.4 on rings and 9.1 on vault. Darren Parzych took the bronze (50.7) and was golden on vault (9.5). Brett Ringie and Drew Ignotti tied for the fifth spot with 49.9. The youngest of the Daggett men, eight year-old Matthew Sharp, finished fifth-with a 9.1 on vault, 9.2 on rings, and a 9.0 on floor. Also in Class Six, Eric Parsons had a 48.1 and Craig Rinaldi finished 10th with a 49.9.

Congratulations to all these dedicated gymnasts.

LAUREN POWELL OF FEEDING HILLS (right) was the Level 10 Junior A State Champ at the All-State All-Around and Michelle Germano was the Level 10 Junior B State Champ. Lauren is an eighth grader at the Agawam Junior High. They are coached by Joe Saimeri (left). Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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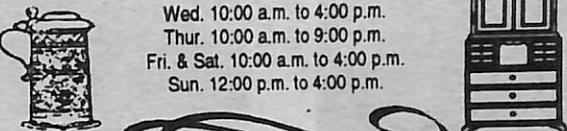
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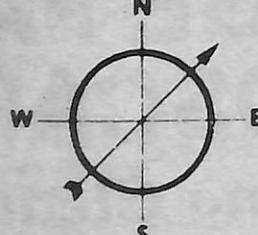
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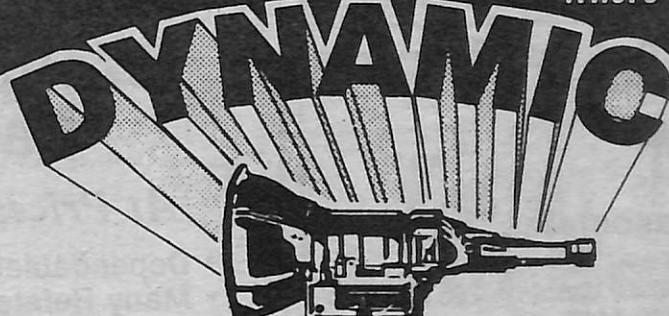


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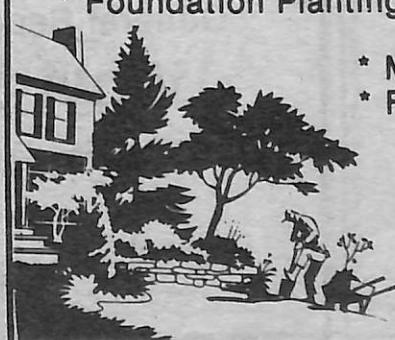
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NORTHEAST BUILDERS: Custom homes & remodeling (since 1975). Fully insured & licensed. Rick Pfeffer, 4 Lenox St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. Reg. No. 116963; Const. Sup. No. 000450. (413) 789-1150.

CLOVER CONSTRUCTION & HOME IMPROVEMENT OF AGAWAM: Guido Winter. Garages, sheds, decks, general repair, concrete. Free estimate. (413) 821-0139. Pager number—290-2990.

VERMETTE AUTO BODY: Complete collision service. 19 years of customer satisfaction. We work with all insurance companies. 787 Silver Street, Agawam, 786-8226. (MA. REG. NO. 1842.)

BOB LONGO CONSTRUCTION: 22 years specializing in additions. Free custom design. Fully insured, free estimates. In Agawam, 789-0758.

LYMAN CUSTOM REMODELING: Kitchens, bathrooms, additions, hutches, corner cabinets, and other specialty furniture. High quality workmanship. Free estimates, fully insured. Michael G. Lyman, 63 Columbia Dr., Feeding Hills, 789-3032. License number 048883.

BUSY BEE'S FAMILY DAYCARE: Full/part-time. Open 6:30-5:30. Licensed by state; also member of Farm Worker's Council. Indoor/outdoor activities, field trips, etc. 88 Franklin St., Feeding Hills. Call for info., 789-4374.

CURLEY'S LAWN SERVICE: Call today for cleanouts and seasonal mowing. Fully insured, free estimates, experienced/uniformed staff. Commercial and residential properties. (413) 786-4622.

GEORGE FARINA LANDSCAPING: Spring cleaning including lawn mowing, tree work, foundation planting, seeding and sodding. George Farina, 786-5658.

POWER WASHING SPECIAL: Most one-stories, \$99; two-stories, \$149. Quality results since 1982. Licensed & insured. Steven G. Erickson, 525-2720 or 860-749-5790. Also, wallpapering, painting & spray texture ceilings.

G.A.H. LAWN CARE SERVICE OF AGAWAM: Spring cleanups; aeration; dethatching; free estimates. Low rates for lawn mowing (\$25 a mow up to half acre). Call 789-1712.

AFFORDABLE CATERING FOR ALL OCCASIONS: Peter Savenko & Family, 786-6168, 31 Oak Hill Avenue, Agawam.

HAYDEN SIDING & TRIM: Don't choose between looks and performance — you can have both! Free Low-E and grids on all replacement windows ordered by April 12th. Licensed & insured (MA REG NO. 102136). 786-6742.

CONTE CONSTRUCTION: New homes, additions, decks. Complete remodeling, kitchens & baths, garages. Fully insured. John Conte; licensed builder. In Feeding Hills — 786-9518.

ELECTROLOGY ASSOCIATES OF HAMPDEN COUNTY: Professional permanent hair removal. Free consultation. Doreen A. Prouty of Agawam, Registered Electrologist, 1111 Elm Street, Suite 15, West Springfield. By appointment — (413) 827-9696.

SPRINGFIELD TURN-VEREIN: Catering to weddings, banquets, parties, and receptions. Two rooms available with seating up to 250 people. 176 Garden Street, Feeding Hills, 786-0924.

SHADES ON WHEELS: Your complete custom window treatment specialist, all at discount prices. Free estimates and installation — satisfaction guaranteed. (413) 786-9411.

LUIGI'S AUTO BODY: Celebrating 20 years of service. Specializing in American and foreign vehicles. Licensed & insured. 371 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills. Tel. (413) 786-4975; Fax (413) 789-6404.

MR. AERATOR: Mr. Aerator can help your lawn breathe again. Major aeration benefits: increases air, water and nutrient movement to root zone; intensifies decomposition of thatch; helps relieve soil compaction; stimulates new growth; improves drainage. All this adds up to a healthier lawn! Call today for more information/price estimate. Mr. Aerator, Lawn Aeration, 786-9489.

AUTO TRIM BY GEORGE: Truck seats; auto seats; headliners; boat seats; motorcycle seats; convertible tops; tonneau covers; rugs; construction equipment seats. 10% senior discount. Call George, 786-6073.

E-Z SCREEN REPLACE-MENT: Any size door, windows, etc. Call for free pick-up and delivery. Senior discount. Call anytime — (413) 732-1311.

PERSONAL LANDSCAPE: A complete lawn & landscape service. Mowings; new lawns; landscapes; mulch; thatching; spring & fall clean-ups. Stephen Pacitti, owner. 789-8982 or 786-8051.

DISC JOCKEY SERVICE: Providing the very best in entertainment and sound. Music Box Productions — DJ Tom Melbourne (certified professional). (413) 789-6788.

AGAWAM SEPTIC TANK PUMPING SERVICE: Celebrating 43 years of dedicated service. Santi DiDonato — the original! Call 786-2554; In West Suffield, 1-860-668-4301. Serving: Feeding Hills, Agawam, West Springfield, Westfield, Southwick, West Suffield, And Suffield.

HALL LAWN CARE: Lawn mowing; aeration; dethatching; spring clean-ups. We specialize in mowing lawns and giving the best price for our service. Free estimates. Call 789-1712.

PLUMBING: Quality plumbing at reasonable rates. Prompt and efficient service. Bob at 572-9143 (Westfield).

EAGLE EYE CARPENTRY: General contractor. For a full line of construction (residential & commercial). Very fine work and fair estimates. Paul Therrien, Owner, 163 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills. (413) 789-0524.

ROSSI LANDSCAPING: Spring & fall clean-ups. Property maintenance, mowing. "Expect to be impressed." Tel. number (413) 789-7245.

ROTOTILLING: Gardens, lawns, flower beds. Reasonable rates. Call (413) 667-3930.

WANTED

BECOME A NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE: Exciting part-time position available in Agawam & Swk. Welcome new neighbors and get to know local merchants & professionals. This position offers flexible hours to fit family needs. 15-20 hours per week. For details call 1-800-474-7777. (Sales position also available.)

LOOKING TO RENT GARAGE OR BARN AREA: To store 15-foot boat year-round. Call Gail or Jackie at 789-2267. Lv. message.

CHILDCARE WANTED: Suffield parents seeking mature, loving care at home for 4 month-old son. M, Tu, Th, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Increase in days possible if interested. Please call (860) 668-5765.

HELP WANTED: Dependable, mature woman to clean home weekly on Suffield/Agawam line. References required. Call (860) 668-6322.

HELP WANTED: To work in local greenhouse. Students 15 or older to work vacation week; adults to work part-time days. Apply in person only — Monday, April 20th, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Fini's Plant Farm, 217 James Street (off North).

PROFESSIONAL TECHNICIANS SEEKING CAREER PATH INTO SERVICE MANAGEMENT: If you have: minimum five years experience, drivability diagnostic skills, professional appearance, ASE certifications, good communication skills, desire to succeed, and are customer service oriented, we

have: salary starting at \$33,000 plus bonus, paid training, medical/dental plan, retirement and 401k, paid vacations, ultra modern facilities and equipment. Our company is seeking professional automotive technicians who have a sincere desire to enter into management. Please call Eric Anthony at (413) 737-5392. EOE/M/F/V/ADA.

PART-TIME HELP WANTED: Part-time position close to your home w/excellent hours! If you are available Monday-Friday, starting at 5:30, we want to talk to you! No weekends! Office cleaning in Enfield & Suffield. Paid holiday/training. Call (860) 741-0827. EOE.

FOR SALE

LOAN FOR SALE: 8 yds. - \$95. Agawam only. 786-5215.

A FEW SEATS LEFT! Bus trip to Kittery, Maine Outlet Stores, Saturday, May 2nd. Bus leaves Feeding Hills 7:30 a.m. \$20 round trip. Call Northwood Civic Association, 786-3249.

553 ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES: Just opened! Come visit us at 553 Main Street, West Springfield, 736-7975. Wed., 10-4; Thurs., 10-9; Fri. & Sat., 10-4; Sun., 12-4.

FOR SALE: Sofa and love seat, contemporary style, rust color, excellent condition. Asking \$300. Bill, 786-4507 (call between 4:00 and 9:00 p.m.).

FOR SALE: 1993 Ford Tempo GL. One owner. 26,000 miles. Sells on lots for \$5,900. Good tires; well-maintained. \$4,700. 786-5476.

FOR SALE BY OWNER: 1993 Continental/Exec. 62,000 miles. Transferable Ford Extended Service Plan. Runs to 10/30/98. W/50 Ded. \$12,800 firm. 789-3995.

TAG SALE

TAG SALE: Huge tag/rummage/bake sale. Food, drawings, bargains! Rain or shine. Immaculate Conception Church, 475 Main St., West Springfield. Saturday, April 18th, 8:00 a.m. to "?"

TAG SALE: Sat. & Sun., 4/18 & 4/19, 10-4. Household items, everything must go. 33 Anthony St. (off Suffield), Agawam.

FOR RENT

HALL AND PAVILION FOR RENT: Call 786-4855. Ask for Vickie. Keno is there, too.

PETS

FREE TO GOOD HOME: A.K.C. Rottweiler. 1 year-old, housebroken, great with kids, very loveable, needs lots of attention. For information, call 789-1663 (leave number and name; will return call).

FLEA MKT.

AGAWAM'S J.R.S. FLEA MARKET: On Suffield Street (Route 75) behind McDonald's. Largest indoor flea market in New England. Open Saturdays and Sundays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For further information, call 786-2850.

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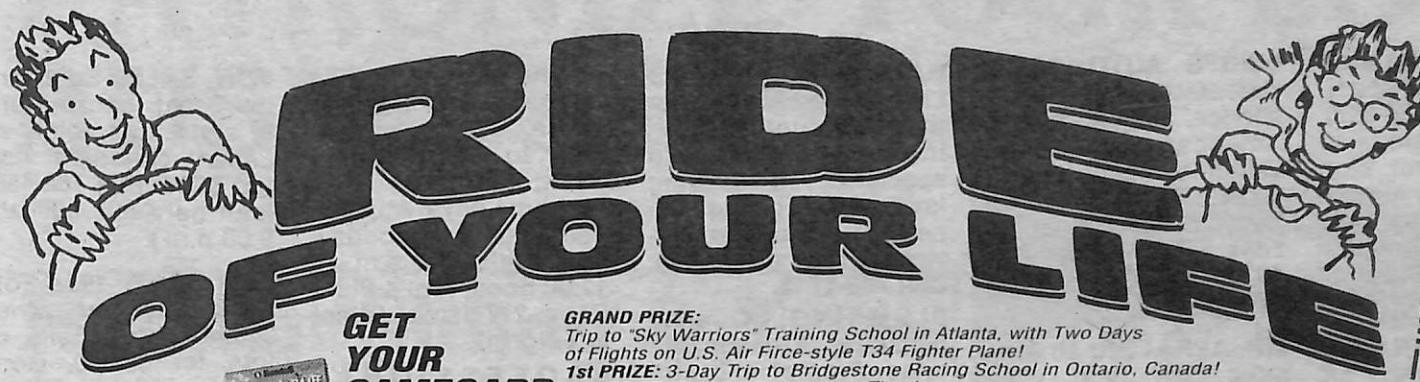
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